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ENDOWED SCHOOLS, IRELAND, COMMISSION.

REPORT

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE

ENDOWMENTS, FUNDS, AND ACTUAL CONDITION

OF ALL

SCHOOLS

ENDOWED FOR THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION

IN IRELAND;

ACCOMPANIED BY

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE, DOCUMENTS, AND TABLES OF SCHOOLS AND ENDOWMENTS.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

DUBLIN:
PRINTED BY ALEX. THOM AND SONS, 87, ABBEY-STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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COMMISSION.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith. To our Trusty and well-beloved CHARLES WILLIAM FITZGERALD, Esquire, commonly called Marquis of Kildare, CHARLES GRAVES, Doctor of Divinity, ROBERT ANDREWS, Doctor of Laws, one of Our Counsel learned in the Law, HENRY GEORGE HUGHES, Esquire, one of our Counsel learned in the Law, and ARCHIBALD JOHN STEPHENS, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, Greeting:

Whereas an humble Address has been presented unto Us by the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses, and Commissioners of Shires and Burghs in Parliament assembled, humbly praying that We would be graciously pleased to issue a Commission to inquire into the Endowments, Funds and actual condition of all Schools endowed for the purposes of Education in Ireland, and the nature and extent of the instruction given in such Schools, and to report their opinions thereon.

KNOW YE that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your intelligence, discretion, and diligence, have authorized and appointed, and by these Presents do authorize and appoint you the said Charles William FitzGerald (commonly called Marquis of Kildare), Charles Graves, Robert Andrews, Henry George Hughes, and Archibald John Stephens, to inquire into the Endowments, Funds, and actual condition of all Schools endowed for the purposes of Education in Ireland, and the nature and extent of the instruction given in such Schools, and to report your opinions thereon.

And, for the better discovery of the truth in the premises, We do by these Presents, give and grant to you or any three or more of you full power and authority to call before you or any three or more of you such persons as you shall judge necessary, by whom you may be the better informed of the truth in the premises.

And We do further, by these Presents, give and grant to you or any three or more of you full power and authority to inquire of the premises and every part thereof by all lawful ways and means whatsoever, within all parts of Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Ireland.

And We do further, by these Presents, give and grant unto you or any three or more of you full power and authority, where the same shall appear to be requisite to administer an oath or oaths to any person whatsoever to be examined before you or any three or more of you touching or concerning the premises.

And We do further, by these Presents, give and grant to you or any three or more of you full power and authority to cause all persons to bring and produce, upon oath before you or any three or more of you, all and singular Records, Books, Papers, and other writings, touching the premises, which shall be in the custody of them or any of them.

And Our further will and pleasure is, that you or any three or more of you upon inquiry into the premises, do certify to Us, from time to time, under your hands and seals, your several proceedings as the same shall be completed, and do within the space of One Year,* after the date of these Presents, or sooner if the same can reasonably be, certify unto Us in like manner, the whole of your proceedings under and by virtue of these Presents, together with what you shall find touching or concerning the premises upon such inquiry as aforesaid.

And We further will and command, and by these premises ordain, that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you our said Commissioners, or any three or more of you, shall and may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment.

And We hereby command all and singular the Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Mayors, Bailiffs, Constables, Officers, Ministers, and all other our loving subjects whatsoever, as well within liberties as without, that they be assistant to you, and each of you in the execution of these Presents.

And for your assistance in the due execution of this Our Commission, We have made choice of our trusty and well-beloved WILLIAM NEILSON HANCOCK, Esquire, to be Secretary to this Our Commission, and to attend you, whose services and assistance we require you to use from time to time, as occasion shall require.

In Witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

Witness Ourself at Westminster, the Fourteenth day of November, in the Eighteenth Year of Our Reign.

By Warrant under the Queen's Sign Manual,

C. ROMILLY.

* Commission extended to 1st of February, 1858, *vide* Report, p. 1.

ANNO DECIMO OCTAVO & DECIMO NONO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

CAP. LIX.

An Act to facilitate Inquiries of Commissioners of Endowed Schools in *Ireland*. [23rd *July*, 1855.]

WHEREAS Her Majesty has been graciously pleased, on the Address of the Commons in Parliament assembled, to issue Her Majesty's Commission, dated the Fourteenth Day of *November* in the Eighteenth Year of Her Majesty's Reign, to *Charles William FitzGerald*, Esquire (commonly called Marquis of *Kildare*), *Charles Graves* Doctor of Divinity, *Robert Andrews* Doctor of Laws, One of Her Majesty's Counsel learned in the Law, *Henry George Hughes* Esquire, One of Her Majesty's Counsel learned in the Law, and *Archibald John Stephens* Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, and thereby authorized and appointed them Her Majesty's Commissioners to inquire into the Endowments, Funds, and actual Condition of all Schools Endowed for the Purposes of Education in *Ireland*, and the Nature and Extent of the Instruction given in such Schools, and to report their Opinions thereon; and for the Assistance of the said Commissioners, *William Neilson Hancock* Esquire was appointed Secretary to the said Commission: And whereas Difficulties have been encountered in the Prosecution of the said Inquiries, and it is expedient that the said Commissioners should have Authority conferred upon them, as hereinafter expressed, to carry out the Objects of the said Commission, and that One or more Assistant Commissioners should be appointed to act under the said Commissioners and in their Aid: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same:

Construction of Terms.

I. In the Construction of this Act the following Words and Expressions shall, if not inconsistent with the Context, have the Meaning hereinafter assigned to them; (that is to say,)

The Word "Commissioners" shall mean the said Commissioners named in the said Commission, or any Three of them;

"Endowed Schools" or "Schools" shall mean and include all Schools of Royal Foundation in *Ireland*, the Schools on the Foundation of *Erasmus Smith*, the Charter Schools and Diocesan Schools, and all Schools endowed on charitable or public Foundations in *Ireland;*

"Endowments" shall mean and include the Estates, Lands, Funds, and annual or other Income given, granted, or applied for the Establishment or Support of such Schools, or for the Purposes of Education therein;

And "Lord Lieutenant" shall mean the Chief Governor or Chief Governors of *Ireland* for the Time being.

Commissioners to meet and to inquire into the Endowments and State of all Schools, &c.

II. The Commissioners, so soon as conveniently may be, shall meet from Time to Time at some convenient Place, and examine and inquire into the State, Condition, and Management of all Endowed Schools in *Ireland*, and the Nature and Extent of the Instruction given therein, and also into the Nature, Amount, and annual or other Value of the Endowments of such Schools respectively, and the annual Income derived from such Endowments, and how the same has been applied, and into such other Matters connected with such Schools, and the System of Education pursued therein, as to the Commissioners shall seem expedient.

Power to Commissioners to

III. The Commissioners, or any One or more of them, may repair to any School or to any other Place, and there to summon and examine, on Oath or otherwise, all and every Person or Persons touching any Matters which they are empowered or directed by this

Act to examine or inquire into, and to call for Vouchers, Books, Deeds, Evidences, Maps, and all other Documents, and to examine and inquire into all Matters which to the Commissioners shall seem necessary and proper; and the Commissioners are hereby respectively empowered to administer an Oath to any Person who shall be so examined by or before them.

repair to Schools, examine Witnesses, and call for Documents.

IV. If any Person having Charge of any Document relating to any of the aforesaid Endowed Schools, or holding any Situation in connexion therewith, or having the Disposition, Control, or Management of any Money, Lands, or other Property for the Establishment or Support of any such Schools or the Purposes of Education therein, shall be summoned to appear before the Commissioners or any One or more of them, for the Purpose of being examined, or to produce any Documents before them, shall refuse to appear or to be examined by the Commissioners or any Three of them, or shall refuse to answer such Questions as shall be propounded by the Commissioners, or any of them, touching any Matter or Thing which they are empowered or directed by this Act to examine into, or shall refuse or neglect to attend before such Commissioners from Day to Day, when required so to do, or to produce such Records, Deeds, Parchments, Books, Papers, or Writings, or any of them, without good and sufficient Cause, to be allowed by the Commissioners, every such Person shall forfeit the Sum of Twenty Pounds for every such Refusal, Neglect, or Omission, to be recovered by Action in any of Her Majesty's Courts of Record, or by Civil Bill in the Court of any Assistant Barrister, by any Person who shall sue for the same.

Penalty on Persons refusing to attend to be examined or to produce Documents.

V. The Commissioners may from Time to Time, as often as they shall think proper, and as often as they shall be required so to do by the Lord Lieutenant, make a Report in Writing under their Hands, and Seals, or the Hands and Seals of any Three of them, to Her Majesty of all Matters arising upon such Examinations and Inquiries which shall appear to the Commissioners necessary or proper so to be reported, and shall in like Manner report and suggest to Her Majesty such Plans for the Improvement of Education in such Schools and the better Management of their Endowments, and for the better regulating, managing, and governing such Schools, and for the general Promotion, in connexion with said Schools, of Academical Education in *Ireland*, as shall appear to the Commissioners to be expedient and practicable.

Power to Commissioners to make Report to Her Majesty, and suggest Plans of Improvement of Schools.

VI. The Lord Lieutenant may, on the Requisition of the Commissioners, appoint One or more but not exceeding Four Assistants to the Commissioners, to be called Assistant Commissioners; and the Commissioners may from Time to Time remove such Assistant Commissioners, and the Lord Lieutenant may, on the Requisition of the Commissioners, appoint others in their Place; and the Remuneration to be paid to such Assistant Commissioners, in addition to their Travelling Expenses, shall be such Sum as the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury shall appoint, not exceeding the Sum of Two Hundred Pounds for each Assistant Commissioner, to be paid out of such Aids or Supplies as may be from Time to Time provided and appropriated by Parliament for the Purpose.

Appointment of Assistant Commissioners.

VII. It shall be the Duty of the Assistant Commissioners to act in aid of the Commissioners, and under their Directions, in execution of the Objects of this Act, and for that Purpose to visit and inspect such of the Endowed Schools in *Ireland* as the Commissioners shall direct, and to examine into the Endowments and State and Condition of such Schools, and to report thereon to the Commissioners; and such Assistant Commissioners shall have and enjoy the same Rights and Powers as the Commissioners or any of them might or would have had if they had visited the Schools in Person.

Duties of Assistant Commissioners.

VIII. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to abridge, lessen, or affect the Powers of the Commissioners under and by virtue of Her Majesty's said Commission.

This Act not to affect Powers of Commissioners.

ENDOWED SCHOOLS, IRELAND, COMMISSION.

REPORT.

STATEMENT OF THE COURSE OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

In the month of November, 1854, we had the honour to receive your Majesty's Commission, bearing date the 14th of that month, appointing us Commissioners to inquire into the Endowments, Funds, and actual Condition of all Schools Endowed for the purposes of Education in Ireland, and to report our opinions thereon; and directing us to certify the whole of our proceedings under the Commission, together with what we should find upon our inquiry.

By an Act of Parliament which received your Majesty's assent on the 13th of July, 1855, we were empowered to make a Report to your Majesty of all matters arising upon the examinations and inquiries under our Commission and the said Act, which should appear to us necessary and proper so to be reported. And we were by the said Act directed in like manner to report to your Majesty such plans as should appear to us to be expedient and practicable, for the improvement of Education in Endowed Schools in Ireland, and the better management of their endowments, and for the better regulating, managing, and governing of such schools, and for the general promotion, in connexion with them, of academical education in Ireland. 18 & 19 Vict. c. 59.

By Letters Patent, bearing date the 6th of October, 1855, the 17th of May, 1856, 6th of February, 13th May, and 13th November, 1857, respectively, your Majesty was pleased to extend the duration of the Commission to the 1st February, 1858.

We now humbly beg to certify to your Majesty our proceedings under the Commission and Act of Parliament, and to submit a Report of such matters arising upon our examinations and inquiries as appear to us to be necessary and proper.

We beg also to submit plans for the improvement of Endowed Schools in Ireland, for the better management of their endowments, and for the better regulating, managing, and governing of such schools, and for the general promotion, in connexion with them, of academical education in Ireland.

Our first meeting was held on the 25th of November, 1854, when we commenced our proceedings by directing the preparation of a list of Endowed Schools from the reports of previous Commissions, and the returns made from time to time to Parliament.

We addressed to the principal masters of Endowed Schools in Ireland a circular and tabular form of return, applying for information with regard to the nature of the foundation and endowments of each school, the emoluments of the master, and the attendance of the pupils. Forms, Evidence, vol. ii. p. 395.

We also sent a circular to the secretaries and registrars of the different boards having charge of Endowed Schools, and in many cases to individual trustees of such schools, requiring information and returns from them similar to what we required from the masters. Ibid. p. 396.

We applied, moreover, to the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests in Ireland for such information as they might be able to afford, with regard to endowed schools.

From many of the masters and trustees we received prompt replies to our inquiries, and also from all the boards except the Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith. The governors of these schools declined to give us the information we required, and forbade their masters to supply it. They grounded their refusal on a privilege contained in their charter, which, as they alleged, exempted their schools from being visited by any person, unless authorized by Act of Parlia- Documents, Ev. vol. ii. p. 297.

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMISSIONERS.

ment; and they furnished to us the opinion of counsel, to the effect that our Commission gave us no power by any compulsory means, and no right to inquire into the endowments, funds, or condition of the schools founded by Erasmus Smith, or to exercise any jurisdiction in respect of them.

A large portion of the endowments available for education in Ireland, and a numerous class of schools, being thus withdrawn from our inquiries by the refusal of the Governors of the Erasmus Smith's Schools to submit to the authority of the Commission, we addressed a communication to Sir George Grey, Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 16th April, 1855, stating our apprehension that, unless additional powers were conferred on us, serious obstructions were likely to arise in the execution of your Majesty's commands, and that we felt it would be otherwise impossible for us efficiently to inquire and report our opinion to your Majesty. Subsequently the Act of Parliament, to which we have already referred, was passed.

Documents, Ev. vol. ii. p. 299.

Pending our application for increased powers, we proceeded with our inquiries; and as we experienced considerable difficulty in ascertaining the names of the patrons, governors, trustees, and managers of schools, we addressed a circular to masters of schools, asking for this information.

Forms, Ev. vol. ii. p. 397.

To secure, as far as possible, a complete list of endowed schools and endowments for schools in Ireland, we addressed a circular to the clergy in Ireland, inquiring whether there were in their respective parishes or districts, any endowed schools, and asking for the names of the masters and trustees of such schools; and also inquiring if there were endowments or funds for the establishment of schools which were not in operation. We addressed this circular to the following classes of clergymen in Ireland:—The Incumbents of the United Church of England and Ireland; the Parish Priests of the Roman Catholic Church; the Ministers of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church; the Reformed Presbyterian Synod; the Ministers of the Eastern Reformed Presbyterian Synod; the Remonstrant Synod of Ulster; the Presbytery of Antrim; the United Presbytery, or Synod of Munster; the Associate Presbytery of Ireland; the Secession Church; the Congregational Union of Ireland; the Ministers of the Methodist Church; the Primitive Wesleyan Methodist Society; and the Pastors of the Baptist Churches.

Ibid. p. 397.

The number of persons to whom this circular was addressed was 3,588, and we received 1,793 replies, which enabled us to discover upwards of one hundred schools or endowments of which we had no other means of tracing the existence.

A similar circular was addressed to the trustees of each of the Quarterly Meetings of the Society of Friends, and replies were duly received.

With respect to National schools, we decided on limiting our inquiries to such as had endowments distinct from the aid which they received out of the Parliamentary grant; and we accordingly applied to the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland for a list of all schools having such endowments. In cases where the sole endowment consisted of a site, or a small portion of land vested in the Commissioners, or in trustees for them, we did not direct any inspection.

In the course of our inquiries we ascertained that a number of schools had received building grants, and that land had been conveyed to trustees for education in connexion with societies established for various purposes in Ireland. We accordingly prepared a circular, which we addressed to the several societies, inquiring as to the endowed schools which were now, or had been at any former time, in connexion with them. We also inquired whether it appeared from the records of the respective societies that endowments existed for the establishment of schools which were not in operation.

Ibid.

This circular was addressed to the Association for Discountenancing Vice, the Church Education Society for Ireland, the Church Missionary Society of Ireland, the Dingle Mission, the Irish Society for Promoting the Education of the Native Irish through the Medium of their own Language, the Baptist Irish Society, the Leighlin Church Education Society, the Society for Irish Church Missions, the Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor of Ireland, Kildare-street, the Society for Promoting the Scriptural Education of the Inhabitants of the Islands and Coasts, the Sunday School Society for Ireland, the Hibernian Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, the Primitive Wesleyan Methodist Society, the Hon. the Irish Society of London, the Worshipful the Company of Drapers, London, the Worshipful the Company of Ironmongers, London, the London Hibernian Society, the Ladies' Hibernian Female School Society, London; and the Wesleyan Missionary Society, London.

We also addressed a circular to the Deans of the United Church, inquiring with respect to the endowments and schools in connexion with cathedrals in Ireland. PROCEEDINGS OF COMMISSIONERS.

It appeared by a communication received from the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests, that the extracts of wills in their custody contained references to a considerable number of endowments for education. We accordingly directed two of our Assistant Secretaries to examine these extracts, and to take copies of all that related to education subsequent to the year 1830. We fixed on this year, as the endowments of an earlier period were nearly all included in the inquiries of previous Commissions, or Committees of the House of Commons. The last of these was the Committee on Foundation Schools, 1835. Their report gives a full digest of charitable funds designed for education up to that date. By means of the extracts made by our Assistant Secretaries, we were enabled to trace a considerable number of endowments, and in some instances, to make their existence known to trustees who had previously been entirely ignorant of them. The endowments so discovered are fully noticed in the volume of Tables of Schools and Endowments accompanying this Report. Forms, Ev. vol. ii. p. 397. Tables, vol. iii.

In making out lists of endowments from these extracts, we adopted the principle of not considering any bequest of less than £100, unaccompanied by directions to invest, as constituting an endowment that we should inquire into. In the case of money left for building, or expended on building schoolhouses, we did not consider it alone as constituting an endowment, but where the site was permanently secured, we took such money into consideration as affording means of estimating the value of the endowment.

In the progress of our inquiries we found that a large number of the communications addressed to the principal masters of schools, which appeared to have endowments attached to them, were returned through the Post Office as dead letters. In these cases we addressed a communication to the incumbents of the United Church, and to the parish priests, stating the evidence on which the circular had been sent, requesting such information as it might be in their power to afford with regard to the endowments said to have been in operation, and inquiring whether any income or benefit was now derived under them, and if so, who were the recipients.

In most cases we received replies, accounting for the endowments not being in operation; and in some instances we were instrumental in making known to clergymen the existence in their own parishes of endowments of which they had been previously entirely ignorant, and in assisting the trustees to recover them.

In the course of the year 1855, we addressed circulars to principal masters and trustees with respect to 1,900 schools or endowments; the circulars addressed to the clergy amounted to 3,588; the letters sent, in addition to the circulars, amounted to 3,819, making, with other circulars, a total of 11,305 communications sent during the year; and the total number of letters received by us in the same year amounted to 5,933. After the passing of the Statute (18 and 19 Vic., c. 59), we addressed new circulars to some masters and trustees who had neglected to answer our inquiries, apprizing them of the statutable penalty they incurred by a refusal. Forms, Ev. vol. ii. p. 398.

The returns which we received from the Commissioners of National Education with regard to schools having endowments and annual subscriptions, in addition to the Parliamentary grant, did not distinguish the cases of subscriptions from those of endowments, as the Commissioners of National Education stated that they were unable to do so. We accordingly addressed a circular to the managers of National schools named in the return, and we found that most of the schools on this list derived the additional assistance from voluntary subscriptions or land held at will, and not from permanent endowments of either money or land. Ibid. p. 398.

We directed our Assistant Commissioners to inspect those National schools only which had permanent endowments other than sites vested in the Commissioners or trustees, and the results are given in the Tables of Schools and Endowments. We obtained from the Commissioners of National Education a return of all the schools vested in them, or in trustees for them, or secured by bond, together with the cost of erecting the schoolhouses. We were thus enabled to prepare a table showing the number of vested National schools not included in the inspections of our Assistant Commissioners, and exhibiting the total estimated annual value of the school premises. Tables, vol. iii. p. 732.

The Statute 18 and 19 Vic., c. 59, having passed, we proceeded in the month

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMISSIONERS.

Ev. vol. ii. p. 1.

of August, 1855, to hold public Courts in the order set forth in the Minutes of Evidence, and also to visit a number of the principal endowed schools in Ireland. These Courts were held in the chief town of each county in Ireland, and we are indebted to the High Sheriffs, the Sub-sheriffs, the constabulary, and the other local officers for the facilities afforded to us in the conduct of our inquiries.

Forms, Ev. vol. ii. p. 399.

We had notices of our public Courts inserted in the local newspapers, and Sir Duncan M'Gregor, Inspector-General of Constabulary, was so good as to order notices to be posted in the district of each sub-inspector of the constabulary. We also addressed a notice of our public Courts to all persons who had been in special correspondence with us in the respective counties, and to all the schoolmasters, from whom important communications had been received. The business of our office in Dublin Castle was meanwhile left in charge of two of our Assistant Secretaries.

In holding our public Courts we adopted the following course of proceedings. We first directed our Secretary to read the documentary evidence which we had collected from the reports of previous Commissions, from returns made to Parliament, and from other sources, with regard to the most important endowments. We examined the masters of the principal schools, and received evidence from magistrates, landed proprietors, the mayors, and principal inhabitants of towns, the clergy of all denominations, trustees of schools, and other persons interested in particular endowments, or in the subject of education generally. The evidence was taken down by our shorthand writers, and accompanies this report.

Ev. vols. i. and ii.

We visited upwards of 100 schools, including all the principal grammar schools in Ireland, and nearly all the endowed schools in the immediate vicinity of the chief towns in the several counties.

In the cases of Bishop Foy's School, at Waterford, and the Endowed School at Midleton, we held adjourned Courts for the purpose of closing the inquiries which we were unable to complete within the time originally allotted.

Whilst we were engaged in this visitation, His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, in pursuance of the power conferred on him by the Statute 18 & 19 Vic. c. 59, appointed Arthur Sharman Crawford, George Whitley Abraham, Frederick William M'Blain, and Edward Pennefather, Esquires, Assistant Commissioners, to inspect "such of the Endowed Schools in Ireland as we should direct, and to examine into the endowments, and state and condition of such schools, and to report to us."

Forms, Ev. vol. ii. pp. 399–402.

Tables, vol. iii.

The Assistant Commissioners having been furnished by us with forms of report intended to guide them in the performance of their duties, commenced their inspection in November, 1855; and we have given in the Tables of Schools and Endowments some of the results of their inspection, accompanied by extracts from their reports.

In the course of our inquiries it appeared desirable that the accounts of the several trustees, and boards having charge of schools, should be examined. We accordingly applied to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant requesting that an official accountant might be appointed to assist us in the performance of this duty. His Excellency selected Richard S. Hickson, Esq., one of the Accountants of the Board of Works, who, under our directions, examined the accounts of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, of the Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, and of the Incorporated Society, and also the accounts of the following endowed schools under the management of boards or individual trustees:—The Blue Coat Hospital, Blackhall-place; Pleasant's Asylum, Camden-street; Mercer's School, Castleknock; Morgan's School, Castleknock; the Hibernian Marine School, Rogerson's-quay; the Swords Borough School; the Parochial Schools of St. Bridget's, St. John's, St. Luke's, St. Mary's, St. Michan's, and St. Peter's; and the Roman Catholic Schools of SS. Michael and John's, Dublin; Wilson's Hospital, Leney, Westmeath; the Parochial Schools of St. Mary's Shandon, St. Nicholas, and St. Peter's, Cork, endowed by Moses Deane; and the Green Coat Hospital, Cork; Vaughan's Charity, Drumkeeran, Fermanagh; and Jackson's Charity, Monaghan; and his general report is given in the Appendix.

Appendix, p. 20.

At our public Courts in Dublin, as a part of our inquiry into the management of the Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, the Incorporated Society, the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, and the Governors of the Blue Coat Hospital, Dublin, we examined the mode in which they kept their accounts, and we have noticed the results as to each Board in subsequent parts of our Report.

The accounts of the other schools and institutions are noticed in connexion with the general question of Audit of accounts.

Having received evidence indicating unsatisfactory management of the estates under the charge of some of the public boards, and also under the charge of private trustees, we applied to Sir George Grey to authorize his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to appoint an Inspector of Estates to inquire into the general management of the landed property belonging to endowed schools in Ireland.

Vide p. 228, *infra.*

His Excellency selected James William Murland, Esq., who proceeded to conduct his inspections in accordance with our letter of instructions. His reports are given in the Appendix, and are noticed in a subsequent part of our Report.

Forms, Ev. vol. ii. p. 402. Appendix, p. 21.

We thus completed our proceedings for the year 1855, a quorum of our body having met for the despatch of business on 119 days. Thirty-four meetings were held at our office, Dublin Castle, twelve at public Courts in Dublin, and forty at public Courts in the several counties. Thirty-three days were occupied in travelling, and in visiting schools.

Vide p. 234, *infra.*

In the commencement of 1856 we instituted inquiries into the numerous fee-farm grants, and leases securing sites and schoolhouses which formed, in the aggregate, a large amount of property for educational purposes. We had applied for and obtained from John Litton, Esq., who had been secretary to the Commissioners of the Lord Lieutenant's School Building Fund, the books of the Commissioners and the leases that were in his custody. We had also obtained the books and leases in the custody of the Association for Discountenancing Vice, and we subsequently got the leases in the custody of the Kildare-place Society. The leases of the Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith were submitted to our inspection, as were likewise those of the Incorporated Society.

We were thus enabled to add considerably to the number of schools on our list. In several cases we forwarded copies of such leases to the trustees, and received replies, stating that the leases so forwarded had enabled them to recover the patronage, or the possession of the school, and to establish the existence of endowments which had been unknown to them.

In some cases we found that although the leases had been duly registered, and had acquired a Parliamentary title conferred on them by Stat. 4 Geo. IV., ch. 86, s. 10, some of the estates on which the sites were granted had, nevertheless, been sold by the Commissioners for the sale of Incumbered Estates in Ireland, without any exception of such sites having been made in the conveyance.

Vide p. 195, *infra.*

In March, 1856, Mr. Pennefather, who was appointed Assistant Commissioner for the Northern District, sent in his resignation to us, and after some time his place was supplied by the appointment of William Dwyer Ferguson, Esq.

In April, May, and November, 1856, we held public Courts, at which we instituted inquiries into the condition and management of the Hospital and Free School of King Charles II., commonly called the Blue Coat Hospital; into the management of the Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, and of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland.

Up to 14th of October, 1856, we were occupied during twenty-five days with our Public Courts, and with meetings for the despatch of business at our office in Dublin Castle.

From the 15th of October until the 17th of January, 1857, we were engaged in considering various plans and suggestions relating to the subject-matter of our Commission, and in revising the Drafts of portions of a Report prepared by our Secretary, in accordance with directions given to him in December, 1855.

On the 14th of January, 1857, two resolutions, embodying certain principles, were adopted by a majority of our body, and, on the 17th of January, a plan for a Draft Report was approved of by three of the Commissioners. It was then unanimously resolved that the preparation of the Draft Report, on the basis of the above-mentioned resolutions and plan, should be referred to the three Commissioners, viz.:—The Marquess of Kildare, the Rev. Charles Graves, and Robert Andrews, Esq.

They accordingly proceeded with the preparation of the Draft Report, but their labours were interrupted until the middle of October by the illness and consequent absence of Dr. Graves.

On the 2nd of January, 1858, the three Commissioners brought up the Draft Report, proof sheets of which had been sent in the preceding month to Mr. Hughes and Mr. Stephens.

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMISSIONERS.

On the 29th of January Mr. Hughes submitted to the three Commissioners his reasons for not concurring in the Draft Report, requesting that they should be transmitted to your Majesty. They are accordingly annexed to this Report.

Mr. Stephens at the same time stated that, not having had time to complete his reasons for dissenting from the Report of the majority of the Commissioners, he would be unable to lay his objections before them previous to the period fixed for our reporting to your Majesty.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ENDOWED SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.

From the Foundation of the Diocesan Free Schools, in 1570, *to that of the Royal Free Schools, in* 1608.

1570.
12 Eliz. c. 1.
28 Hen. VIII. c. 15.

The Diocesan Free Schools are the oldest of the existing Endowed Schools in Ireland. In the year 1570, they were placed on a permanent basis by an Act of the Irish Parliament, thirty-three years after the act which imposed on the clergy of the United Church the obligation of keeping parochial schools, and twenty-two years before the foundation of Trinity College.

State Papers, vol. iii. Part iii. p. 130.

In 1539, the report of a commission for the suppression of abbeys, called forth a recommendation for the preservation of some six of the religious houses, for the reason that—" In them young men and children, both gentlemen children and other, both of mankind and womankind, be brought up in virtue, learning, and in the English tongue and behaviour, to the great charge of the said houses; that is to say, the womenkind of the whole Englishry of this land, for the one part, in the said nunnery, and the mankind in the other said houses." This recommendation, however, was not successful, and the houses were suppressed.

Ibid. 468.

Four years later, the Lord Deputy, Sir Anthony St. Leger, devised a scheme, communicated in a letter to the King (27th August, 1543), for " converting Christ's Church into a free school :"—" whereof there is great lack in this land, having never a one within the same."

The suppression of religious houses, in which provision had been made for education, especially of a superior kind, created a want of schools, which the Diocesan Free Schools were intended to supply. The Act of Elizabeth founding them is entitled " An Act for the Erection of Free Schools," and recites—" Forasmuch as the greatest number of the people of this your Majesty's realm hath of long time lived in rude and barbarous states, not understanding that Almightie God hath by his divine laws forbidden the manifold and haynous offences which they spare not daily and hourly to commit and perpetrate, nor that hee hath by his Holy Scriptures commanded a due and humble obedience from the people to their princes and rulers, whose ignorance in these so high pointes, touching their damnation, proceedeth only of lack of good bringing up of youth of this realm, either in publique or private schooles, where through good discipline they might be taught to avoide these lothsome and horrible errours." It then provides that there should be henceforth " a free school within every diocese of Ireland ;" the schoolhouses to be erected in the principal shiretown (where a schoolhouse had not been already built) at the cost of the whole diocese ; the endowment to be paid one-third by the ordinaries, and two-thirds by the other ecclesiastical persons in each diocese.

As to the state of endowed schools during the short period that intervened between the act of Elizabeth and the foundation of the Royal schools, we possess but little information ; but from such as we have, it appears that the schools were not in a flourishing condition. The following preamble to a proclamation issued by Sir John Perrot, Lord Deputy, nearly fifteen years after the passing of the Act of Elizabeth, shows that at that time it had not been carried into effect. The proclamation, dated 4th March, 1584, after reciting the wretched state of parish churches, goes on to state that " we also find that free schools, which are to be maintained and kept for the education and bringing up of youth in good literature, are now, for the most part, not kept or maintained," &c. ; and therefore commissioners were appointed to " make inquiry into the same." In the troubled state of the country, it was hardly to be expected that this commission could produce any satisfactory results ; and no other measure of importance relating to education in Ireland is recorded until a few years after the commencement of the subsequent reign.

1584.

Leland's History of Ireland, ii. p. 292.

From the Foundation of the Royal Free Schools, in 1608, *to that of Erasmus Smith's Schools, in* 1669.

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The next endowments for education were the Royal Free Schools planned by King James I., in the early part of his reign, as part of his scheme for the plantation of Ulster. In 1608, King James I. made certain orders in the Privy Council which he required to be observed upon the plantation of the escheated lands in the Counties of Armagh, Tyrone, Coleraine (now Londonderry), Donegal, Fermanagh, and Cavan, among which is the following: "That there shall be one free school, at least, appointed in every county, for the education of youth in learning and religion." On the 21st of July, 1609, a commission was issued to Sir Arthur Chichester, then Deputy of Ireland, and others, containing the following, among other instructions:—

1608. *"Conditions to be observed on the Plantation of Ulster."* Harris' Hibernica, part I. p. 167.

"That the parcels of land which should be allotted to the College in Dublin, and to the free schools in the several counties, are to be set out and distinguished by mears and bounds, to the end the same may be accordingly passed by several grants from us."

Concise View of the Irish Society, p. 14. Lond. 1842.

Several years were suffered to elapse before these intentions were carried into effect. On the 30th of January, 1612–3, the King wrote to the Lord Deputy directing that the escheated lands in several of the counties of Ulster, which had been assigned for the endowment of free schools, should be conveyed to the Bishops of the respective dioceses where they were to be established, to the use of the schoolmasters. It was also directed that, as there were no fitting school-houses erected, the rents of the lands should be suffered to accumulate until there were funds enough for the purpose: no masters being appointed in the meanwhile.

1612–3. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 337.

It does not appear that these orders were complied with; for, on the 21st of April, 1614, we find the King again writing to the Lord Deputy, and directing him to convey the lands which had been bestowed for the maintenance of divers grammar schools. The lands were to be conveyed for distribution to the Archbishop of Armagh, who was also empowered to select the "most apte places" for the establishment of the schools.

1614. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 338.

This was followed by the foundation of the Dungannon Royal School, on the 13th of May, in the same year, when King James, by letters patent, established a "perpetual free school for the county of Tyrone, to be held at Dungannon," the master to be nominated by the Archbishop of Armagh, and appointed by the King, and to enjoy certain lands described in the patent, the same as those afterwards granted by King Charles I. for a free school for the county of Tyrone, to be held, however, not at Dungannon, as originally intended, and where it is now actually held, but at the town of Mountjoy. By the same letters patent, King James appointed a person named John Bollingbrooke as master of the school.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 338.

For some time nothing further appears to have been done with respect to the endowment of the Royal Schools; but, on the 1st of August, 1618, the King wrote another letter to the Lord Deputy, referring to his previous letter of the 21st of April, 1614, and observing that though the Archbishop had appointed schoolmasters, yet the land had not been conveyed as directed, and was daily diminishing by encroachment. He then ordered that the lands should be conveyed to the Archbishop on a plan that does not appear to have been carried out.

1618. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 339.

Notwithstanding the delay in the Endowments of these schools being properly conveyed, some of them must have been in operation, for we find that King James, on the 3rd of September, 1618, appointed Geoffry Middleton, master of the school of Fermanagh; and, on the 12th of February, 1621, he appointed John Sterne to be master of the Cavan School; and he afterwards appointed Nicholas Higginson to the same office, by letters patent, dated 13th November, 1623.

Patent Rolls in Chancery in Ireland.

In the appointments of masters by King James it is recited that lands had been assigned for the schools in six counties, among which Londonderry is enumerated; but we have found no trace that the Royal School for that county was ever in operation. With respect to it a difficulty seems early to have arisen, for we find that:—"On the 26th of March, 1615, King James issued a letter complaining of the conduct of the Corporation of London in reference to the plantation: and in 1616, the Corporation sent over Commissioners, who, on their return, report, among other matters, as follows:—'And for a free school we have allotted, when it is donne, 300 acres, which Mr. Springham has promised to build at his own charge next yeare.'" Mr. Springham erected the school in 1617.

Ev. 10770. 1615. Concise View of the Irish Society, p. 48.

It was stated before us that the townlands of Rossnagallagh and Gransha, yield-

Ev. 10770.

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ing about £450 a-year, the only property of the Irish Society on the east side of the Foyle river, were probably the lands allotted for the purposes of education. It is alleged that they have formed a part of the estate of the Irish Society ever since 1614. But how they came into the possession of the Society does not appear; for they form no part of the lands described in their charter. It was also stated that:—"Whatever the arrangements entered into, they were not satisfactory to the Crown, as in June, 1624, King James and the Privy Council issued the following order to the Corporation of London: 'that 700 acres, intended by His Majestie for the maintenance of a school within that city, if it be possible, may be found out, and employed to the use it was first allotted for; and that the twenty marks yearly stipend exhibited by the Londoners for the maintenance of a schoolmaster, now resident there, may be confirmed to him, the said schoolmaster and his successors for ever, and that there be a fair and convenient church erected in that citie, for the assemblage of the bishopp, clergie, cittizens, and parishioners, to have divine service.'"

Ev. 10770.

"To which the following answer was made by the Corporation:—'To the sixth—for 700 acres of land intended for the free school, they know not in whose possession the same is, but desire it may be examined and found out, whereby they may be freed from the twenty marks per annum, they have of their own benevolence allowed, and doe as yet voluntarily allow to that use, which being a free gift they humbly pray may be at their own pleasure, and for the building of a new church in that citty, they shall hereafter, when it shall please God that the citty shall be better replenished with inhabitants, take it into due consideration: in the meantime they have given orders for the inlarginge of the church there, which will be sufficient for the present use.'

Appendix to Society's Case in the Lords, p. 77.

"The Crown being still dissatisfied, the Common Council received in May, 1625, a further remonstrance from the Privy Council, containing the following:—'That the surveyors of Ireland be written unto, concerning the 700 acres allotted for the free school, and the stipend of twenty marks for the schoolmaster be confirmed unto him in perpetuity.'

Ibid. p. 78.

"To which the Corporation made the following reply:—'To the tenth—they humbly pray that the surveyor of Ireland may be writt unto for the finding out of the 700 acres of land allotted unto the free school, whereby they may be freed from the annual stipend of twenty marks, which they voluntarily allow for the maintenance of the schoolmaster, which being a free gift they humbly pray may rest at their pleasure.'"

It appears from this case that the difficulties of enforcing endowments existed at a very early period, and that impediments were sometimes interposed by bodies corporate, which in the reign of King James must have been difficult to surmount.

The endowment of Royal Schools for Armagh, Tyrone, Donegal, Fermanagh, and Cavan, by King James I. is noticed in a debate in the Irish House of Lords in the year 1640. The Bishop of Derry, in supporting a bill concerning free schools, said that it was intended only for Ulster where King James had erected several free schools and endowed them, some with £100, some with £200 per annum, and some with more, which schools being in places inconvenient for the entertainment of scholars, it was proposed by the bill to remove them to more convenient places, and to divide them, when the means were great, into several schools. The bill seems to have been of the same effect as the Act of Charles II., which we shall hereafter notice. The only schools we have any trace of in 1641, to which this language would be applicable, are the Royal Schools, originally endowed by King James I., and subsequently incorporated by King Charles I.

Irish Lords Journal, vol. i. p. 132.

Vide p. 10, *infra*.

Dr. Reid, in his History of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, observes that Pynnar gives the extent of the forfeited lands at about 400,000 acres, situated in the Counties of Derry, Donegal, Tyrone, Armagh, Fermanagh, and Cavan, and states that, of these, 100,000 were granted for church, school, and Corporation lands.

Reid's Hist. Presb. Church, vol. i. p. 86, 3rd edit.

1624.

Besides endowing the Royal Schools of Ulster, King James assisted several others both in that province and elsewhere. On the 7th of April, 1624, he granted 200 acres for a free school for the county of Longford, an endowment which is no longer in operation; but it appears to have been in existence so lately as towards the close of the last century, though it was then unknown who the founder was; and, in the grants made by the King for the foundation of corporate towns, there was in general a stipulation that a small quantity of land,

Tables, vol. iii. p. 168.
Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 378.

usually an acre or half an acre, should be set apart for the site of a public school, as appears from the Patent Roll for his reign.

The first proceeding of King Charles I., which is recorded on the Patent Roll, is the appointment of a master to the Fermanagh school, in place of a deceased master who had been selected by King James. In the patent it is recited that the lands for the support of the school had been assigned by King James. Shortly afterwards, in furtherance of the endowments commenced by King James, King Charles I., in the second year of his reign, granted to the Archbishop of Armagh and his successors for ever certain lands in all the counties, with the exception of Londonderry, where King James I. had directed the establishment of free schools, the lands to be held in free, pure, and perpetual alms for the use of the masters of free schools at towns named in each of those counties.

1627.

Charter, 15th Dec. 1627; Parl. Pap. 475. 1851.

The reason stated in the Charter for conveying those lands to the archbishop and his successors, is that masters of the free schools referred to therein were not on the 8th of July, preceding the date of the letter, under the sign manual, bodies corporate and politic. In this manner was avoided the necessity for making re-grants according as new masters were appointed. In the grant made by King James for the support of the Dungannon School, nothing passed but a life interest in the lands in favour of the person who was then appointed master. On his death the lands would revert to the Crown, although the King professed to grant the lands for future masters also; for as the successive masters were not recognized by law as constituting one body, "corporate and politic," none of them could become entitled to the lands by succession, and the lands would again be the property of the Crown until re-granted to the new master. But by granting the lands to the Archbishop and his successors, who constituted by law but one body "corporate and politic," the occurrence of reversions to the Crown, and consequent necessity of re-grants of the lands by the King were obviated, so far as related to the Royal Schools for the counties of Armagh, Cavan, Donegal, Fermanagh, and Tyrone.

In 1629 King Charles founded the Corporations of Banagher in the King's county, and Carysfort in the county of Wicklow; and by the Charter of incorporation granted lands for the use of a schoolmaster at each of these places; the appointment to be made by the Lord Lieutenant for the time being, and in default of such appointment, the maintenance of the free schools, and the appointment of the masters to be in the hands of the Corporation. Both these schools continue in existence to the present day.

Charters, 16th Sept. and 23rd Aug. 1629; Parl. Pap. 475. 1851.

Three years afterwards a school was founded by King Charles I., at Clogher. By letter, under sign manual to the Lords Justices, he directed that the Bishop of Clogher should surrender 100 acres in order that the same might be re-granted for the support of a school. Had this been done, the endowment of the school would have appeared by the King's grant on the Patent Rolls; but, instead of creating the endowment by his own act, the King, by letters patent, in 1632, licensed the bishop to assign the lands to trustees, upon trust, to build the school and maintain the master, who was to be nominated and appointed by the Bishop and his successors. The patent describes the lands, and states that the reason for granting the bishop a licence to assign the lands, instead of requiring him to surrender them as a preliminary to their being re-granted by the King for the school, was the smaller expense which the proceeding adopted would entail. Whether the lands were actually assigned as directed has not been discovered. There is no deed to that effect in the registry of the diocese; but this is no proof that none such ever existed, the records of the diocese having been destroyed about sixty or seventy years ago, as is stated by the Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in Ireland. But it appears that from time immemorial there was a school at Clogher, assisted by the successive bishops, and it is probable that the origin of this aid was the endowment by King Charles. The lands mentioned in the patent can still be identified with reasonable certainty, and continue church property. On the suppression of the bishopric of Clogher, the temporalities of that see became invested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who are empowered by the 27th section of the Act of 4 and 5 William IV., c. 90, to apply any portion of their surplus funds to such charitable purposes as had been supported by the Bishop, in whom the temporalities were previously vested; but this power has not been exercised in favour of the Clogher School, although the late bishop, Lord Robert Tottenham, had contributed liberally towards its support up to his death, in 1849.

24th July, 1632; Parl. Pap. 475. 1851.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 675.

24th July, 1632; Parl. Pap. 475. 1851.

Com. Municipal Corporations Rep. 1833, p. 998.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 672.

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Jan. 31, 1633. Strafford Letters, vol. i. p. 188.

The Lord Deputy, in a letter to Archbishop Laud, thus describes the state of the Royal Schools in 1633: "The schools, which might be a means to season the youth in virtue and religion, either ill-provided, ill-governed in the most part, or which is worse, applied sometimes underhand to the maintenance of Popish schoolmasters; lands given to these charitable uses, and that in a bountiful proportion, especially by King James, of ever blessed memory, dissipated, leased forth for little or nothing, concealed contrary to all conscience, and the excellent purposes of the founders." "All the monies raised for charitable uses, converted to private benefits."

Feb. 24th, 1634. Irish Commons Journal, vol. i. p. 100.

That the views thus expressed were not confined to the Lord Deputy, is shown by a bill, entitled, "An Act to redress the misemployment of lands, goods, and stocks of money heretofore given to charitable uses," which was introduced into the Irish House of Commons in the same year, being, perhaps, the earliest attempt at establishing the jurisdiction now vested in the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests.

1644.

The Royal Schools were situate almost exclusively in Ulster, and but few of the diocesan schools existed in those portions of the south and west which were chiefly inhabited by Roman Catholics. The consequent want of grammar schools for persons of that persuasion was strongly felt at this period. In the negotiations at Oxford, in 1644, amongst the moderated proposals of the Agent of the Irish Confederates was one that an Inn of Court be erected, and the university and schools made free to Irish Roman Catholics.

1644. Carte's Life of the Duke of Ormonde, vol. i. p. 500–1.

In the same year the first step was taken to obtain Returns of Charitable Bequests similar to those now made to the Bequest Board, for it appears that the Registrar of the Prerogative Court was ordered "to make a constat of all such legacies and bequests wherein any thing was mentioned by will to be left or given in pious uses."

Irish Commons Journal, vol. i. p. 324.

Irish Lords Journal, vol. i. p. 289.

1662.

Shortly after the Restoration, the Irish House of Lords expressed their readiness to concur in a bill designed at that time to promote education, which appears to have been passed as the Act of 14 & 15 Car. II., c. 10, and contained provisions similar to those of the bill proposed by the Bishop of Derry in 1640. It is entitled, "An Act for real Union and Division of Parishes, and concerning Churches, Free Schools, and Exchanges." The first section recites that "Whereas inconvenient places are often nominated for the keeping of free schools, where there is no entertainment for scholars, and more opportune places are pretermitted, and sometimes the means allotted for one school is sufficient for two or three." The second section provides that the Lord Lieutenant shall have power, with assent of the Council, and of the archbishop and bishop in whose respective province and diocese each school is situate, "to remove free schools which are of the foundation of your Majesty, or your royal progenitors, or of any archbishop or bishop, from one town to another more convenient, within the same diocese wherein the school was formerly kept, and to divide the possession of any one of the said schools into two or more."

It appears that it was under this Act that three of the Royal Schools were removed:—Mountnorris to Armagh, Mountjoy to Dungannon, and Donegal to Raphoe. The power of dividing the possessions of any of the schools into two or more has not been exercised. The Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry of 1791 refer to these provisions of the Act of 14 & 15 Car. II., as being then in operation, and found upon them a recommendation that a portion of the funds of the Royal Schools should be applied to the support of a great collegiate school, which they proposed to establish in the Province of Leinster.

Doc. Ev., vol. ii. p. 347.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 278, 396.

Between 1608–1669, a few schools were endowed by private founders; one by the Earl of Cork, at Lismore, with a rent-charge of £30 a-year, and a small piece of land; another by the same nobleman at Bandon, with £30 a-year. These schools were both founded in 1610, and have always been, and are still, kept as grammar schools; and the endowments are paid by the Duke of Devonshire, the present representative of the Earl of Cork and Burlington.

Ibid. p. 300.

The Earl of Cork, who was a liberal patron of learning, founded a third school to be kept at Youghal, and endowed it with £30 a-year and a schoolhouse. King James I. refers to this endowment by the Earl of Cork, then Sir Richard Boyle, in a letter to the Lord Deputy, in 1613, and directs that a charter of incorporation and licence of mortmain should be conferred for the benefit of the school; but it does not appear that this intention was ever carried into effect. The Earl of Cork also endowed a school at Charleville, thus making in all four endowments for grammar schools.

Ibid. p. 280.

Another school was founded in the reign of James I. by a private person, Sir Richard Hansard, at Lifford, in the County of Donegal. He bequeathed £30 a-year for the entertainment and maintenance of a master, and £20 a-year for an usher, in a free school; the scholars entitled to free education being children in the parish of Clonley. In the year 1666, an English school was endowed by Mr. James Hamilton, of the Abercorn family, with a rent-charge of £30 per annum, which is now attached to the parochial school at Strabane.

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Ev. 11405. Tables, vol. iii. p. 516.

Ibid. p. 650.

From the foundation of Erasmus Smith's Schools, in 1669, *to that of the Protestant Charter Schools, in* 1733.

The next large class of schools consists of those founded under a charter of King Charles II., by Erasmus Smith, Esq., who was an Alderman of London, and obtained property in Ireland under the Act of Settlement.* With part of the estates thus acquired, he endowed schools. It is recited in the charter that Erasmus Smith had originally intended to erect five grammar schools, and to make provision at the university for those who had been educated in them; but that upon the granting of the Charter, he proposed to establish only three, so as to be enabled to appoint a more liberal maintenance for the schoolmasters, and to make provision for clothing poor children and binding them out apprentices. Under the charter he founded free grammar schools at Drogheda, Galway, and Tipperary.

1669.

14 & 15 Car. II. c. 2, s. 16.

The future visitation and government of the schools was intrusted to a Board of thirty-two Governors, with a power of electing their successors. The schools thus founded, and the Board of Governors, continue to the present day; and the rents of the estates having greatly increased, the endowments thence arising formed a very important portion of our inquiries.

The provisions of the charter are very explicit, as to the constitution of the schools with respect to religious instruction; for in the rules, contained therein, the masters were required to catechise their scholars in Archbishop Ussher's catechism. The importance which the founder attached to this provision is shown by a letter, dated from London, June 6th, 1682, addressed by him to the Governors, thirteen years after the foundation of the schools. In it he states:—"My end in founding the three schools was, to propagate the Protestant faith according to the Scriptures, avoiding all superstition, as the Charter, and the bye-lawes, and the rules established do direct. Therefore it is the command of His Majesty to catechise the children out of Primate Ussher's catechism, and expound the same unto them, which I humbly desire may be observed upon the penalty of forfeiting theire [the masters'] places." By the laws, too, under the hand of Erasmus Smith, and made binding by the Charter, it is provided that the schoolmaster shall publicly read the Scriptures, and pray and catechise the children in Primate Ussher's Catechism. It appears that these schools were far from being successful in Erasmus Smith's lifetime; for in the same letter he says—"My Lords, my designe is not to reflect upon any, only I give my judgment why those schooles are so consumptive, which was, and is, and will be (if not prevented), the many Popish schooles, theire neighbours, which, as succors, doe starve the tree. If parents will exclude theire children because prayers, catechism, and exposition is commanded, I cannot help it, for to remove that barre is to make them seminaries of Popery. I beseech you to command him that shall be presented and approved by your honours to observe them that decline those duties, and expell them, which will obleege [me], my Lords and Gentlemen."

Register of Governors, vol. i. Ev. 22795.

Ibid.

Shortly after the Revolution, an Act of William III., to restrain foreign education, was passed by the Irish Parliament, which contains an important provision with respect to Diocesan Schools. It recites, that "Whereas, many of the subjects of this kingdom have accustomed themselves to send their children and other persons under their care, into France, Spain, and other foreign parts, not under his Majesty's obedience, to be educated, instructed, and brought up; by means and occasion whereof the said children and other persons have, in process of time, engaged themselves in foreign interests, and been prevailed upon to forget the natural duty and allegiance due from them to the Kings and Queens of this realm, and the affection which they owe to the established religion and laws of this their native country, and returning so civilly disposed into this

1695.

7 Wm. III. c. 4.

* He had obtained property during the Protectorate. *Vide* p. 66, *infra*.

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kingdom, have been, in all times past, the movers and promoters of ma dangerous seditions, and oftentimes of open rebellion, for remedy whereof"— Then follows an enactment, the effect of which, as stated in the marginal no is, "he that goes himself or sends any other beyond seas to be trained up Popery, &c., or conveys or sends over money, &c., for their maintenance, as a charity for relief of a religious house, and is thereof convicted, to b disabled to sue in law or equity, or to be guardian, executor, or administrator, o take a legacy or deed of gift, or bear office, and forfeit goods, and also lands fo life."

7 Wm. III. c. 4, s. ix.

It then recites that "it is found by experience that tolerating and conniving a Papists keeping schools or instructing youth in literature, is one great reason o many of the natives of this kingdom continuing ignorant of the principles o true religion, and strangers to the Scriptures, and of their neglecting to conform themselves to the laws and statutes of this realm, and of their not using the English habit or language, to the great prejudice of the public weal thereof," and enacts, "That no person whatsoever of the Popish religion shall publickly teach school, or instruct youth in learning, or in private houses teach or instruct youth in learning within this realm, from henceforth, except only the children or others under the guardianship of the master or mistress of such private house or family, upon pain of twenty pounds, and also being committed to prison, without bail or mainprize, for the space of three months for every such offence."

Ibid. s. x.

The prohibition of any education being given by Roman Catholics, either at home or in foreign countries, is then followed by a provision for enforcing the Act of Henry VIII., for establishing English Parochial Schools, and the Act of Elizabeth for establishing Diocesan Free Schools; the latter being called Latin Schools, as if they had been intended to supply the education usually given in Grammar Schools in England. The section is as follows:—"And to the intent that no pretence may be made or used, that there are not sufficient numbers of schools in this realm to instruct and inform the youth thereof in the English language, and other literature, be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That one Act of Parliament, made in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of the late King Henry the Eighth, called An Act for the English order, habit, and language, whereby it is among other things enacted and provided, that every incumbent of each parish within this kingdom shall keep or cause to be kept, within the place, territory, or parish where he shall have pre-eminence, rule, benefice, or promotion, a school to learn English; and, also, one other Act made in the twelfth year of the reign of the late Queen Elizabeth, intituled An Act for the erection of free schools, whereby it is enacted and provided, that a publick Latin free school shall be constantly maintained and kept within each diocese of this kingdom, which have generally been maintained and kept, but have not had the desired effect, by reason of such Irish Popish schools being too much connived at, and all other acts and statutes now in force in this realm concerning schools, shall, from henceforth, be strictly observed and put in execution, according to the good intent and design of the same; and for the more effectual doing thereof, the Justices of His Majesty's Court of King's Bench each term, and the Judge of Assize in their respective circuits, and the Justices of Peace, in their general sessions of peace, are required to give this and the said former Acts in charge, from time to time, to the several Grand Juries, to be then impannelled and charged, and to be very circumspect in seeing the same put in due execution."

1695. Sep. 21. Irish Lords Journal, vol. i. p. 508.

On the passing of this Act, the Irish House of Lords seems to have contemplated some measure for the purpose of rendering the schools more efficient; and on the 21st September, 1695, it was ordered, on motion, that the Committee of Grievances should examine the reasons wherefore the respective schoolmasters' salaries, within this kingdom, were not paid.

1698. Ibid. vol. i. p. 684.

The effort to execute the provisions of the Act of Elizabeth, for the erection of Diocesan Free Schools, was unsuccessful. Three years after the passing of the Act of William III., a bill was introduced for the more effectual putting in execution the Act of Elizabeth; and this measure having dropped, the subject was again taken up in about five years afterwards. On the 15th November, 1703, it was ordered by the Irish House of Lords that certain Lords should constitute a Committee to prepare heads of a bill relating to Free and Parochial Schools; and in 1704 a bill was introduced in the House of Commons for rendering more effectual the Act of Elizabeth.

1703. Ibid. vol. ii. p. 40.

1704, Irish Commons Journal, vol. ii. p. 425.

Notwithstanding the Act of William III., to prevent Roman Catholics from

acting as schoolmasters or ushers, members of that persuasion continued to act in both of these capacities. In 1709 an Act was passed which recited that the previous Act of William III. had proved ineffectual, that Papists still kept schools, and several Protestant schoolmasters, to increase the numbers of their scholars, do chose to combine with such Papists, and entertain Papists as ushers, under-masters, or assistants. The Act then provided that whatever person of the Popish religion "shall publickly teach school, or shall instruct youth in learning in any private house within this realm, or shall be entertained to instruct youth in learning as usher, under-master, or assistant, by any Protestant schoolmaster," should be punished as if he were a Popish regular clergyman. By the law then in force, the penalties thus incurred were imprisonment and transportation for entering into or residing within the realm after a certain day, while a second offence of the same kind was punished as high treason. The recital in this Act shows that Protestant teachers, even during the operation of the penal laws, found it necessary to employ Roman Catholic assistants to encourage persons of that persuasion to send children to their schools. The same disinclination on the part of Roman Catholics, to allow their children to be instructed in schools where the teachers are exclusively Protestants, continues to the present day.

1709.

8 Anne, c. 3, secs. 21 and 22.

9 Wm. III. c. 1.

In 1709, Samuel Smith, son of Erasmus Smith, presented a petition to the House of Commons praying that the surplus rents of Erasmus Smith's school estates might be appropriated to the support of a mathematical school in the city of Dublin; and a draft bill to carry this suggestion into effect was at one time approved of by the Governors. This design, however, was not accomplished, but it may have formed the basis of the provisions of the Act of 1723, enabling the Governors to found one or more English schools.

Irish Commons Journal, vol. ii. p. 605.

In 1711, the subject of education again engaged the attention of the Irish House of Lords; for on the 30th July, in that year, it was "ordered, on motion, that the Lord Bishop of Killaloe have the leave of this House to bring in heads of a Bill for Union and Division of Parishes, and making provision for erecting Free Schools, to teach Irish children the English tongue."

1711.

Irish Lords Journal, vol. ii. p. 368.

In 1723, the income arising from Erasmus Smith's school estates having increased, a private Act was obtained sanctioning the endowment that had been previously made of Erasmus Smith exhibitions in Trinity College, Dublin, and founding two professorships and three fellowships there. The Act, moreover, sanctioned an agreement with the Governors of the Blue Coat Hospital to have twenty boys maintained in that Institution. Thus, a connexion was established between the Corporation of Dublin, the members of which were then Governors of the Blue Coat Hospital, and the Erasmus Smith Board, which continued down to the time of the Municipal Corporation Reform Act, in 1832.

1723.

10 Geo. I.

The Act contains an important provision as to the distribution of any future surplus of the funds, empowering the Governors to apply it towards some public use in Trinity College, or the Blue Coat Hospital, in putting out poor children to school, or apprentice, or in founding one or more English schools in Ireland. Extra endowments under this provision were given to Trinity College, but they have for the last few years been withdrawn. The endowment of English schools, though not commenced for nearly a century afterwards, has within the last fifty years become the principal object to which the funds of Erasmus Smith's school estates have been applied.

Before noticing the next large class of endowed schools, we shall briefly refer to some other educational endowments founded between 1669 and 1733, the period at present under consideration. In 1672, King Charles II. granted a Charter of incorporation and a site for building the Blue Coat Hospital, on the petition of the Lord Mayor and citizens of Dublin, who desired the erection of an Hospital and Free School. The Foundling Hospital for the reception and education of deserted children was built in 1704, and endowed from various sources, in part real estate, and in part a house tax, and continued in existence until the introduction of the Poor Law Act in 1838. Three classical seminaries were endowed about the close of the seventeenth century. In 1684 the Duke of Ormonde granted a house and lands, and rectories and tithes for the support of the Kilkenny Grammar school. In 1685, Richard Moore, Esq., and Stephen his son, granted land to found a Protestant Free Grammar School at Clonmel. In 1696, Elizabeth, Countess of Orkney, endowed with lands a Free Grammar School at Midleton, in the county of Cork, and attached to it exhibitions in Trinity

Tables, vol. iii. p. 56.

Ibid. p. 142.

Ibid. p. 366.

Ibid. p. 294.

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College. The estate constituting this endowment is said to have since become worth two thousand pounds per annum, though producing only £200, rent, to the school.

Among the endowments for English schools from 1669 to 1733 were several on a very liberal scale. In 1686, Alderman John Preston, of the city of Dublin, conveyed lands, now of considerable value, upon trust, to pay the salaries of two Protestant schoolmasters, one at Navan, in the county of Meath, and the other at Ballyroan, in the Queen's County, and to apply the surplus of the rents to various other charitable purposes. Dr. Nathaniel Foy, Bishop of Waterford, left the residue of his property, in 1707, for the support of a school at Waterford, where poor children should be taught gratis, clothed, and apprenticed. Endowments on a larger scale were also made by Hugh Rainey, Esq., for the support of charity schools, at Magherafelt, and by the Right Hon. William Connolly, for the education of the children on his estate at Celbridge. And, in 1724, Andrew Wilson, Esq., left considerable estates for the establishment, in connexion with an hospital, of a school for the education of Protestant boys of Westmeath, or the adjacent counties, in the principles of the Protestant religion.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 188, 200.

Ibid. p. 398.

Ibid. pp. 606, 128.

Ibid. p. 220.

Other schools founded during this period are noticed in the Tables of Schools and Endowments. It is to be observed that many of the endowments made from 1669 to 1733, especially those towards the close of that period, are, like the endowment of Erasmus Smith, of an exclusively Protestant character.

From the foundation of the Protestant Charter Schools, in 1733, *to the relaxation of the restrictions on Education, in* 1781.

1733.

In 1733, the Incorporated Society for promoting English Protestant Schools was established in compliance with an address from the principal nobility, gentry, and clergy of Ireland. The object of the society was the instruction of children of Roman Catholics and other poor natives of Ireland, in English, writing, and arithmetic; in husbandry and housewifery, or in trades, manufactures, or other manual occupations, and in the Scriptures, and the principles of the Protestant Established religion. The society was also to provide school requisites, diet, and lodging for such poor children as it should judge proper, until they should be fit to be apprenticed to trades.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 731.

In the pursuit of this object, the Society adopted the principle of separating the children from their parents and kindred, and confining them entirely to large boarding schools. The institution was at first supported chiefly by the promoters, and by an annual endowment of £1,000 a-year from King George II. In 1745, the Irish Parliament passed a temporary act, compelling hawkers and pedlars to take out licences, and granted the duties thence arising, amounting annually to about £1,100, to the support of these schools.

1745.

19 Geo. II. c. 5.

1749.

In 1749, the Incorporated Society was made the guardian of all begging children, being intrusted with the power of having them taken up and conveyed to charter schools to be supported there until further order of the Society; and this enactment was made notwithstanding that other provisions in the Act show the development, even at that early period, of some of the defects that afterwards led to a withdrawal of the Parliamentary grant from these institutions.

23 Geo. II. c. 11.

In 1769 there were fifty-two Charter schools and five nurseries, with 2,100 children clothed and maintained. From the foundation of the charter schools until 1784, they continued in great favour with both the Irish Parliament and the Government. They are noticed by nearly every Lord Lieutenant in his speech from the throne, at the opening or the close of the session, and by nearly every Parliament in the addresses in reply; and the grant of the duties on hawkers and pedlars, usually for two years, was constantly renewed.

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 1 Rep. 1825, p. 6.

Irish Lords Journal, 11th April, 1746.

Lord Chesterfield.

Amongst the endowments granted by private individuals to the Incorporated Society, may be noticed those by the Earl of Ranelagh and by Bishop Pococke. The estates of the Earl of Ranelagh, which had been devised by him for the support of charity schools at Roscommon and Athlone, were, in 1760, vested by Act of Parliament, in the Incorporated Society; and about the beginning of the present century, the rental of these estates had risen to upwards of £1,800. In 1763, Dr. Richard Pococke, Bishop of Ossory, bequeathed to the Incorporated Society, a considerable estate, afterwards worth more than £800 a-year, for the support of a school at Kilkenny; and the terms of his will show that the system of the Incorporated Society was adopted and approved of at this period. It is nearly in the terms of the annual speech of the Viceroy, directing that the Roman

Tables, vol. iii. p. 716, 142.

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for regulating the education of Papists, and also to repeal parts of certain laws relative to the guardianship of their children." It recited that several of the laws relative to the education of Papists were too severe, and had not answered the desired effect. It then repealed so much of the Acts of William III., and Anne, as prohibited Roman Catholics from teaching schools. This repeal was, however, accompanied by a restriction, that it was not to extend to Papist schoolmasters teaching Protestant scholars, or to Roman Catholic teachers acting as ushers to Protestants; nor was it to permit Roman Catholics to keep schools for persons of their own persuasion unless licensed by the ordinary, which licence might at any time be recalled. This last restriction was removed about ten years afterwards by a statute which also repealed the restrictive Statute of William III.; and the Catholic Relief Act of 1793 relieved Roman Catholics, as such, from the various incapacities and disabilities they had before been subject to, except some specially retained by it, none of which, however, related to teaching in endowed or other schools.

7 Wm. III. c. 4.
8 Anne, c. 3.
32 Geo. III. c. 21.
33 Geo. III. c. 21.

1784.

The change of policy thus introduced was greatly accelerated by a visit to Ireland, in 1784, of the celebrated philanthropist, Mr. Howard. In connexion with his inquiries into prisons and other institutions, where persons were permanently maintained, he made an inspection of all the charter schools in Ireland. Before commencing his inquiries he had received in Dublin a statement from the Incorporated Society that 2,100 children were maintained in their schools. He found, however, there were only 1,400 children in the schools; and as they were boarding schools the numbers in attendance did not admit of great fluctuations. Mr. Howard immediately published a very unfavourable account of the charter schools, with some details of the various abuses he had discovered in them. This publication having led to a good deal of discussion, the Government Inspector-General of Prisons, Sir Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, made an inspection of a large number of these schools in 1786 and 1787. Mr. Howard repeated his inspection of the schools in the latter year. The discussion created by his publications finally led to the appointment of a Committee of the Irish House of Commons in 1788, before which he and the Inspector-General, and other witnesses, were examined, and the result was a complete corroboration of the statements of Mr. Howard.

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq., 1 Rep. 1825, p. 7.
Ibid.

In April, 1786, the subject of education occupied the attention of the Irish House of Commons, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Irish Commons Journal, vol. xii. p. 138.

"1. That the national foundation of one or more public schools, with regulations adapted thereto, for facilitating and extending to the youth of this kingdom the means of good education, would be of great public utility.

"2. That an humble address be presented to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, requesting that his Grace will be pleased to give directions for the preparing plans of the necessary arrangements for establishing such schools, with an estimate of the expense thereof, accompanied with observations respecting the situations most proper for the same."

The House at the same time ordered, "Returns of the schools of Royal or other foundations in the respective dioceses in this kingdom, specifying the present yearly value of their respective endowments, of what they consist, the names of the masters and assistants, the salaries or allowances paid to the masters, ushers, assistants, or other officers belonging to the said schools, as the same stood on the 25th day of March, 1786, together with the number of scholars at that time in each school respectively, distinguishing the free scholars, the boarders, and the day scholars."

It was also ordered, "That the registrars of the several dioceses do return, on the first day of the next session, an account of the English schools kept by the rectors or vicars in their respective dioceses, with the number of scholars therein respectively, on the 25th day of March, 1786."

1786.

In the same year the Presbyterians in the north of Ireland presented a memorial to the House of Commons, complaining of the want of education in Ireland for those intended for the sacred ministry in their church.

1787.

In 1787 the Lord Lieutenant, in his speech on the opening of the Session of Parliament, held out hopes that some liberal and extensive plan for the general improvement of education would be matured at an early period. Upon this portion of the speech being taken into consideration in a committee of the whole house, resolutions were adopted for rendering the parochial schools, under the Act of Henry VIII., more effectual, for getting returns as to their state and

Irish Lords Journal, vol. vi. p. 2.
Irish Commons Journal, vol. xii. p. 273.
28 Hen. VIII. c. 15.

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made in any of these schools between the scholars of different religious persuasions, without meaning, however, to interfere with the peculiar constitution of the charter schools, or with the intentions of the founders of any other schools, expressed by their wills, or other instruments directing such foundations."

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 343.

They embodied the same views in their suggestions as to English Parochial Schools:—"It is our opinion that the children of Roman Catholics and Protestants should be admitted indiscriminately into the schools, and that the clergy of each persuasion should attend for the purpose of instructing the children belonging to their respective communions in the principles of religion; a mode practised, as we are informed, with great success, in the school of St. Andrew's, Dublin, and of St. Peter's, Drogheda."

Ibid. p. 364.

They recommended "that a summary jurisdiction should be created under the authority of an Act of Parliament, to receive and redress all complaints made of the conduct of masters and ushers of schools on public and private foundations, or of the misapplication or abuse of the funds belonging to the same, with an appeal from their sentence to the Court of Chancery."

Ibid.

They proposed the establishment of a Board of Control, with the "power of directing, from time to time, the plans of education to be pursued in schools on public and private foundation," with ample powers of insuring that such directions should be carried out, and that the general management of the schools should be carefully looked after.

Ibid. p. 365.

The endowments which they then found available for school education, amounted to about £30,000 a-year, with an addition of about £15,000 from parliamentary grants, and other aids to the Incorporated Society; and they stated as their opinion, "that a large proportion of those funds had been grossly misapplied, and that great frauds and abuses had been committed in respect to those charitable donations." They proposed a "Collegiate School, or school connected with the University, upon the plan of the great collegiate schools which, by long experience, have been so highly useful in England." They provided "in this part of the plan, for the maintenance of thirty-two King's scholars in the school, and for forty-two students in the university." And they also suggested the foundation of another new institution, "called the Professional Academy," to train up useful members for the army, navy, and commerce. They stated their belief that this would "be a great national institution; and would, at the same time, be a useful model for private seminaries of a similar nature, which would probably be established by private undertaking in several of the principal towns of this kingdom." This academy they proposed should be supported out of the surplus funds of the Erasmus Smith endowment, thus adopting to some extent the suggestions of Samuel Smith, the son of Erasmus, which we have already noticed.

Ibid. pp. 347, *et seq.* 365.

Ibid. pp. 354, *et seq.* 365.

Vide 13, *supra.*

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. pp. 343, 345.

To support these institutions, and to carry out their other suggestions, they proposed the following changes in the distribution of the funds—£1,900 to be taken from the annual Parliamentary grant to the Protestant charter schools, and applied towards raising a yearly sum of over £23,000 for English parish schools, the remainder to be made up chiefly by presentments; £1,924 from the same source for diocesan free schools; the remainder of the funds for the support of these last institutions to be derived from the contributions of the clergy, augmented from £616 to £1,700, and a like sum of £1,700 from presentments.

Ibid. pp. 355, 379.

The annual expense of the professional academy was to be £900 for the clothing and maintenance of 100 boys, £1,200 for the salaries of the several masters, which they proposed should be defrayed as far as possible out of the Erasmus Smith endowment; and the collegiate school was to be supported in like manner out of the Royal School endowment, the annual cost in connexion with which was estimated at £2,420, of which £420 was for masters and assistants, at salaries varying from £40 to £100, and the rest was for seventy-four King's scholars and students at from £20 to £50 each.

Ibid. p. 350.

Amongst the private endowments during the period 1781–91 are two on a liberal scale; one by Mr. Richard Jackson, who bequeathed a portion of his property for the education and maintenance of poor children of the United Church—a bequest under which nine schools at Forkhill, in the County of Armagh, are now endowed with £415 a-year; and the other by Colonel Robertson, who bequeathed to each of thirty-one parishes in the diocese of Raphoe, in the County of Donegal, £15 a-year, to assist in keeping up schools—persons of every religious persuasion to be eligible to enjoy the benefits of the bequest.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 460.

Ibid. p. 510.

During the same period the Belfast Academy was founded by subscription in 1785, for the purpose of conferring education on the plan of having an extensive course of literature and philosophy, combined with a more elementary system of education, open to persons of all religious persuasions.

From the Report of the Commissioners of Education Inquiry in 1791, *to the Reports of the Commissioners of Education Inquiry in* 1807–12.

The only portion of the report of 1791 which seems immediately to have led to any result was the recommendation "that there should be no distinction made in any of the schools between scholars of different religious persuasions;" for early in the following year, the partial relaxation of the restrictive Statute of 7 William III. was succeeded by its total repeal—a measure which preceded by one year the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1793, which removed all incapacities with regard to schools to which Roman Catholics, as such, had until then been subject. 1791. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 364. 1792. 32 Geo. III. c. 21. 33 Geo. III. c. 21.

The report of 1791 was not presented to Parliament, and, as we have observed, does not appear to have been made public, or to have been further acted on; for in 1799, an address was presented to the Lord Lieutenant by the Irish House of Commons, praying that the Report of 1791 might be laid before the House; but we have not found any trace of this application having been complied with. In the same year, too, a Committee of the House of Commons reported that the state of the education of the poorer classes was then very defective, and recommended the establishment of one or more schools in every parish in Ireland; but no further step was taken on the subject of education until 1806, when the Act of 1788 was revived by a statute of the Imperial Parliament, and the Commissioners of Education Inquiry of 1807–12 appointed. Irish Commons Journal, vol. xviii. p. 19. Ibid. p. 32. 46 Geo. III. c. 122.

The sudden abandonment of the effort made to promote education in the few years preceding 1792, may be ascribed to the breaking out of the French Revolution, and the consequent European war in which Great Britain became engaged in 1793.

In 1792 the Association for Discountenancing Vice and Promoting the Knowledge and Practice of the Christian Religion, was established; and in 1800, received an act of incorporation and Parliamentary aid to the amount of £300 per annum. The Association then commenced to afford assistance to schools, their attention being principally turned to parochial schools under the Act of Henry VIII. This assistance was partly directed towards granting money in aid of building. But this aid was given only on the condition of a portion of land being obtained on a permanent grant, and vested in the minister and churchwardens; the minister to have the appointment of the master and the regulation of the course of instruction; and children of the Established Church to be taught the Church Catechism. Although the schools were founded principally for the education of children of the Established Church, they were open to children of all religious persuasions, provided they conformed to the rules, one of which required that all should read the Scriptures. The Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry of 1825 state, that they appeared to have been attended almost as numerously by Roman Catholics as by Protestants. By the prudent manner in which the Society contributed their aid to building, they effected the application of a large amount of private subscriptions with their grants, to the erection of school buildings of considerable value, which were permanently secured as endowments for education, and as such came under our inquiries. The Parliamentary grant to the society was withdrawn in 1827, after the Report of the Commissioners of 1825, and the Society subsequently gave up all connexion with schools. We found, however, the original conveyances of the school sites still remaining in the custody of their officers. These, with the books relating to the building grants, were deposited with us, and greatly facilitated our inquiries. Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 1 Rep. 1825, p. 30–7. Rep. 1825, p. 33.

In 1800, as part of the arrangements for the Legislative Union, the business of the Committee of Charitable Donations of the Irish House of Lords was transferred to a local board in Dublin, which consisted of the prelates of the United Church, the judges, the incumbents of parishes in the city of Dublin, and a few other dignitaries, and continued to have charge of donations and bequests until the formation of the present board in 1844. 1800. 40 Geo. III. c. 75.

In 1806, the London Hibernian Society was established for founding schools and circulating the Scriptures in Ireland. Its proceedings are noticed in the Report of the Commissioners of Education Inquiry of 1825; but as no part of its 1806.

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funds were applied to securing permanent endowments, and as it has ceased to have any connexion with schools, none of those formerly maintained by it came under our notice.

No steps were taken on the subject of endowed schools from 1791 until the administration of Lord Grenville, in 1806, when the Act of the Irish Parliament of 1788 for appointing Commissioners of Inquiry was renewed by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, under which Commissioners were appointed to inquire into endowed schools. They continued their inquiries until the year 1812, and made fourteen reports—thirteen special and one general—the titles of which indicate the nature of their inquiries, and are as follows:—Free Schools of Royal foundation; Schools of Navan and Ballyroan, of private foundation; The Protestant Charter Schools; Diocesan Free Schools; Wilson's Hospital; Blue Coat Hospital; Hibernian School, in the Phœnix Park; Foundling Hospital; Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, Esq.; Hibernian Marine School; Parish Schools; Classical Schools of private foundation, and English Schools of private foundation. The fourteenth and final Report contained the Result, Retrospective View of the Schools, Plan for the General Education of the lower orders of the People of Ireland, and the Recorded Opinions (in an Appendix) of Mr. Grattan, Mr. Edgeworth, and Mr. Leslie Foster.

46 Geo. III. c. 122.

The general report relates chiefly to a proposed board for superintending the education of the poorer classes. This board was to carry on its proceedings by founding new schools, but the existing schools were to remain under their then managers. For the government of the grammar and other superior schools, the Commissioners proposed no general plan, although they suggested some particular amendments in their special reports.

1810.

Pending the inquiries of this commission, an Act of Parliament was passed in the year 1810, enlarging the leasing powers conferred in 1731 by the Irish Act of George II. By the act of 1731 persons under disabilities were enabled to grant sites in perpetuity, only in case the school was for the use of a resident Protestant schoolmaster to teach the English tongue, and the conveyance was made to the minister and churchwardens. The Act of 1810 enabled the lease to be made to any trustee for any school, provided only the bishop of the diocese approved of the conveyance. The leases made under the latter act had parliamentary title conferred on them in 1824. The leases to the Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools, and those to the Association for Discountenancing Vice, and those under the Commissioners of the Lord Lieutenant's School Building Fund, were all made in accordance with the Act of 1810. It continued to be the principal School Leasing Powers Act for Ireland until the passing of the Act of 1855, under which congregations of persons not belonging to the Established Church in Ireland are enabled to obtain grants in perpetuity for their schools without the assent of the bishop.

50 Geo. III. c. 33.
5 Geo. II. c. 4.
4 Geo. IV. c. 86, s. 10.
18 and 19 Vict. c. 39.

About 1810, the Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools commenced expending the surplus funds which had accrued to them, in founding English schools under the power conferred on them in 1723. The deeds of foundation were nearly all made under the Act of 1810, and they provided for the instruction of all the children in the Church Catechism. The leases also contained a clause of reversion to the proprietor in case of certain contingencies, which rendered the tenure insecure for the purpose of education.

50 Geo. III. c. 33.
Vide, p. 66, *infra*.

1811.

In 1811, the Society for promoting the education of the poor in Ireland, commonly called the Kildare-place Society, was established. This society was composed of persons of various religious persuasions, and their object was to support schools in which the appointment of teachers and the admission of scholars should be uninfluenced by religious distinctions. The Scriptures were to be read by all the scholars, but catechisms and all books of religious controversy were to be excluded.

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 1 Rep. 1825, p. 39.

To this society the support of new schools for the poorer classes was intrusted by Parliament; and in the session of 1814–15 a grant of £6,980 was made. This grant was increased to £10,000 in 1821, to £22,000 in 1824, and to £25,000 in 1827, but was altogether discontinued in 1832. The number of schools in connexion with this society increased from 8, in 1817, to 1,490, in 1825; and the number of pupils from 557, in 1817, to 100,000, in 1825. The Kildare-place Society devoted its funds to the encouragement of schools by inspection, publishing and supplying books, by training masters, and allowing annual gratuities to them; and only a moderate portion of its funds was devoted to

Committee on Foundation Schools, Ir. Rep. 1838, p. 11.

grants for building. The leases which were made to the Society, or in trust for it, although made after the Act of 1810, were mostly of a terminable tenure, and but a small proportion of them continue as endowments at the present time.

The private endowments between 1791 and 1812 were not numerous. There was, however, a munificent bequest by a Mr. Lawrence Gilson, who left an endowment, now producing nearly £800 a-year, for the support of a school, at Oldcastle, in the county of Meath, his native place, the rector and parish priest to take part in the management, and Protestants and Roman Catholics to be equally admissible both as pupils and teachers. Tables, vol. iii. p. 188.

In 1800, £15,000 having been allowed to the inhabitants of Swords on the parliamentary disfranchisement of the borough, it was provided that the principal should be invested in Government securities, and the interest applied to the maintenance of one or more schools within the borough, and to other charitable purposes. The management of this endowment was the subject of much investigation before us, and is noticed in a special part of our Report. Ev. 14018. *Vide* p. 160, *infra*.

In 1808 was founded the Academical Institution, Belfast, as a great school for the middle classes, the masters and scholars being selected without regard to religious distinction. The school continues with scarcely any endowment, except the very extensive and suitable buildings erected by local subscription. Tables, vol. iii. p. 424.

From the establishment of the Commissioners of Education, in 1813, *to the Reports of the Commissioners of Education Inquiry, in* 1825–27.

The Commissioners of Education Inquiry of 1807–12, reported more favourably on the condition of endowed schools of public and private foundation than the Commissioners of 1791. They still, however, noticed considerable abuses, and made suggestions for improvements, which the managers of the schools were not likely to carry out. They did not, however, recommend the establishment of any board of control for these schools.

Sir Robert Peel, then Secretary for Ireland, introduced the Act of 1813, for establishing the Board of Commissioners of Education in Ireland, in conformity with the recommendation of the Commissioners of 1791. By this Act the care of endowed schools in Ireland was, with some exceptions, intrusted to the new Board, called "The Commissioners of Education, in Ireland." The schools exempted from their jurisdiction were the schools of Erasmus Smith and the Protestant charter schools, both of which were under Boards established by Royal Charter; schools of private foundation, under the control of visitors appointed by Charter or Act of Parliament; the parochial schools under the Act of Henry VIII.; and all schools of private foundation for the education of persons professing any other religion than that of the United Church of England and Ireland. 1813. 53 Geo. III. c. 107.

The Board was empowered to visit the schools, either in person or by deputy; and to hold, either at the time of their visit, or at any other time, visitations of the schools, to administer oaths, and to do all other acts appertaining to visitors. Ibid. s. x.

The Board had the powers of visitors at common law, with the usual authority to appoint deputies; and to enforce their proceedings, they were aided by very stringent statutable powers of inquiry. The evils that had so long existed, from the Royal Schools having been managed by the masters under the system of trust leases, were met by vesting the estates of these schools in the Commissioners. The Commissioners were also empowered to assign fixed salaries to the masters, and to apply the surplus to repairs, the payment of under-masters, the maintenance of free scholars in the schools, and the foundation of exhibitions in Trinity College, Dublin. The power of endowing free-scholarships, has been exercised by the Commissioners in the case of only one school, that of Enniskillen; but University exhibitions from the funds of the larger Royal Schools were founded, some in 1828, and some in 1834, and have ever since formed a prominent feature in these institutions.

The estates of the private schools of Navan and Ballyroan, which had been mismanaged, were also vested in the Commissioners.

The Commissioners were empowered to make orders and regulations for the control of schools, and to have their orders enforced by summary application to the Court of Chancery; and the Court was empowered to remove trustees of such schools, and to vest the property of the schools in the Commissioners or other trustees. The appointment of masters, however, was not intrusted to the Board, but remained with the patrons.

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With respect to Diocesan Schools, the Commissioners were empowered to unite them into districts, and to fix the sites. This power they exercised in 1824.

53 Geo. iii. c. 107, s. xv.

3 Geo. IV. c. 79.

The Board took charge of the Diocesan Free Schools and Royal Free Schools, but notwithstanding a provision in the Act of 1813, directing their attention to the schools of private foundation mentioned in the 12th and 13th Reports of the Commissioners of 1807, they took charge of only some of those schools; and although their powers were extended, in 1822, to similar schools founded after 1813, they took a very small number of them under their control.

1818.

In 1818 a decided change in the policy of the Government as to the Protestant Charter Schools, took place. The Chief Secretary for Ireland, Mr. Grant, afterwards Lord Glenelg, by letter to the Incorporated Society, required them to reduce the number of their schools. This change of policy was accompanied by a Parliamentary grant towards the establishment of schools freer from restrictions than any previously so supported. This grant was for aiding the building of schools, and was placed at the disposal of the Lord Lieutenant, and by him intrusted to the Commissioners of the Lord Lieutenant's School Building Fund. The sum placed at their disposal exceeded £3,000 in 1819, and rose to nearly £11,000 in 1824. The terms on which aid was given were usually grants of land for school purposes in perpetuity. The endowment might be vested in any safe hands, and some of the endowments were vested in Roman Catholic clergymen, and private lay trustees. But the great majority of the conveyances, made under the auspices of the Commissioners, were to ministers and churchwardens. Although the Commissioners ceased their operations, after the annual grant was withdrawn in 1830, the leases remained in the custody of the gentleman who had acted as their solicitor and secretary; and on our application they were deposited with us for the purpose of our inquiries. By means of these leases we were enabled to trace a large number of endowments.

1819.

1824.

In 1821 and 1823 returns with respect to the various schools in Ireland were ordered by the House of Commons. In 1824, the House of Commons agreed to an address for a Commission of Inquiry into the educational institutions of Ireland, maintained wholly or in part by public funds. The inquiry was also to include the parochial schools, and the Diocesan Free Schools, and the Commissioners were directed to recommend a plan of education for all classes in Ireland.

1825.

Ev. 23232.

The Commissioners appointed in pursuance of this address conducted their inquiries from 1824 to 1828. They made seven reports. In their first and principal report, they passed a very strong censure on the Protestant charter schools, which was followed by the withdrawal of the Parliamentary grant from the Incorporated Society, and by a total change in the policy of the Society in the management of these schools. The same report was followed some years afterwards by the withdrawal of the grant from the Society for Discountenancing Vice, the Kildare-place Society, and the Commissioners of the Lord Lieutenant's School-building Fund.

The Commissioners made reports on the Diocesan Free Schools, and some special institutions. The Commissioners also recommended a plan for the education of the poorer classes, and they collected and published statistics with respect to the state of all the schools in Ireland in 1824.

Amongst the new foundations noticed by the Commissioners, the most remarkable are the schools of the Christian Brothers, a religious order, which was confirmed in 1820. The schools in connexion with them are noticed in a subsequent part of our report.

Vide p. 130, *infra.*

From the Reports of the Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry of 1825–7 *until the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons in* 1838.

1828.

In 1828 the results of the inquiries of the Commissioners of 1825–7 were submitted to a select committee of the House of Commons, who also took into account the reports of the Commissioners of 1807–12. The Committee passed a series of resolutions in favour of the establishment of a system of education in Ireland, in which no attempt should be made to influence or disturb the peculiar religious tenets of any sect or denomination of Christians. Pupils of all persuasions were to be provided with literary instruction in common, and every facility afforded for their religious instruction separately. It was recommended that Parliamentary grants for popular education should be distributed through a Board appointed by Government, and applied in aid of local contributions for

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ENDOWED SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.

1840. The Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools, in 1840, 1841, and 1842, expended a considerable portion of their funds in founding about forty English schools under regulations similar to those of the Church Education Society, and different from those adopted in the schools established by the Governors between 1808 and 1815. The leases of the schools of the recent foundation contained the provision that all the children shall be instructed in the Holy Scriptures, whilst the earlier leases make instruction in the Church catechism compulsory.

1844. The Report of the Committee of 1838, contained a suggestion for the establishment of provincial colleges and a second university in Ireland. This recommendation was followed up by the foundation of the Queen's Colleges in 1845, and the Queen's University in 1850.

8 and 9 Vict. c. 66. Letters Patent, 30th Dec. 1845; 3rd Sept. 1850.

Whilst the opening of the Queen's Colleges, in 1849, occasioned an increased demand for classical and scientific education, the progress of the National schools diminished the number of private schoolmasters, and the facilities thence arising for obtaining the elements of collegiate education. Returns were moved for, from time to time, in the House of Commons, with regard to the different schools of public and private foundation; and in the year 1854 a deputation of persons connected with the Presbyterian Church, and the heads of the Queen's Colleges, presented statements to the Lord Lieutenant on the subject of intermediate education, urging the great want which existed of intermediate schools throughout Ireland. These papers were referred by his Excellency to us for our consideration.

1854.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 295.

In the same year an address to your Majesty was moved in the House of Commons, "For an Inquiry into the Endowments, Funds, and actual condition of all Schools endowed for the Purposes of Education in Ireland, and the Nature and Extent of the Instruction given in such Schools," and this address was followed by our appointment.

DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOLS.

1570. 12 Eliz. c. 1.

In 1570, the Diocesan Free Schools were placed on a permanent basis by an Act of the Irish Parliament. It was thereby provided that there should be thenceforth a free school within every diocese of Ireland, that the schoolmaster should be an Englishman, or of English birth of the realm (Ireland), that the Archbishop of Armagh, the Archbishop of Dublin, the Bishop of Meath, and the Bishop of Kildare, should have the appointment of the masters within their several dioceses, every of them in his own diocese, and that the Lord Deputy, or other Governor of this realm, should appoint to all the other dioceses, the four dioceses beforenamed excepted. The schoolhouses were to be erected in the principal shire towns (where a schoolhouse had not been already built), at the cost of the whole diocese, under the superintendence of the ordinary of the diocese and the sheriff of the shire. The Lord Deputy and Council were to appoint the master's salary (where none had been previously appointed), of which one-third was to be paid by the ordinary, and two-thirds by the other ecclesiastical persons in each diocese.

Doc. Ev., vol. ii. p. 344.

The Commissioners of Education Inquiry of 1791, refer in their Report to the opinion of Sir John Davies, who was employed by the Government, in the reign of King James I., in promoting good order and civilization in Ireland, as showing the great national importance attached to diocesan schools immediately after their foundation. He says:—"Moreover, to give a civil education to the youth of this land in the time to come, provision was made by another law, [meaning the above Act of Elizabeth] that there should be one free school at least erected in every diocese of this kingdom."

Discovery why Ireland was never entirely subdued, p. 224 (3rd edit. Dublin, 1666).

Under the Statute of Elizabeth, the Lord Deputy and Council regulated the amount of the endowment; and although the standard of value of money has fallen since 1570 to about one-third of its value at that time, so that all salaries ought to have been increased at least threefold, and, perhaps, even more, if allowance were made for the more than proportionate increase of the incomes of the clergy and others connected with landed property, yet the salaries of the diocesan schoolmasters, if augmented at all, were never raised until 1824, above sums varying from £20 12*s.* 4*d.* to £40 (Irish). The average salary of £30 6*s.* 2*d.*, exceeded the value of many benefices in Ireland in 1570. Thus, the benefices in the dioceses of Ferns and Leighlin, in 1612, ranged from £7 to £50, giving an average of £28 10*s.*

Com. Pub. Rec. Ir. 1810–15, 2 Rep. Supp. p. 264.

DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOLS.

convenient place as the Chief Governor might approve of; and that until such site were granted, the diocesan might erect a house for the school wherever he thought most suitable.

The remedy thus provided does not appear to have been effective; for, after another interval of thirty years a further defect was discovered in the Act of Elizabeth. It was found that, some dioceses not being conterminous with counties, the Grand Juries experienced such difficulty in applotting the expenses in a different manner from their usual mode of taxation, that it became necessary to procure a special Act, under which the expense of repairing and rebuilding diocesan schools might be levied off the county at large in which the school was situate.

1755. 29 Geo. II. c. 7

The provisions of the Act of 1755 were inadequate; for, in the Act of 1781 the fact of some of the diocesan schools "having been suffered to go to decay," is ascribed to the unsuitable situations in which many of the schools were placed; and it was then provided that the diocesans might accept leases of sites, for terms of not less than 999 years, at a pepper-corn rent, and that the Grand Juries might present such sums as they deemed reasonable for building and repairs.

1781. 21 & 22 Geo. III. c. 28.

An inquiry was made into diocesan schools by the Commissioners who acted from 1788 to 1791. They state, as the result of their inquiries, that "from this institution" [diocesan schools] "the public receives very inadequate benefit; in many dioceses there are neither diocesan schools or schoolhouses, in many the houses are ruinous, and the masterships of the schools mere sinecures. In the thirty-four dioceses we find only twenty diocesan schoolmasters, though the Act of Elizabeth directs that there shall be a free school in every diocese; of this number six received their salaries but did not act; in one instance the actual usher of another school had been appointed diocesan schoolmaster, and received the salary but kept no school; and of the remainder, very few kept such schools as in any respect answered the end of the institution." They then proceed as follows:—"to render diocesan schools more useful, we beg leave to suggest the following regulations:—that the Lord Lieutenant and Council should now make an appointment for each diocese in the kingdom, pursuant to the said Act of 12th Elizabeth; and that applotments should be made in pursuance of the said appointment, and agreeably to the directions of the said Act of Parliament; and that the impropriators should contribute equally with the clergy. If the power has not been already executed, it still remains in the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council; but this should be regulated by a new Act.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 344.

"By the Act of 12th Elizabeth, the whole expense is imposed upon the clergy; that of repairing was afterwards partly imposed upon the county. We beg leave to recommend that the whole expense of building, as well as repairing, and that half of the annual expense of the schoolmasters should be borne by the county; but we humbly submit it to your Excellency as our opinion, that this institution should be rendered more useful by the introduction of a second master, for the purposes of instructing in mathematical learning; and by the reception of a certain number of gratuitous scholars, not exceeding twenty, into each of those schools.

"The sums now payable by the clergy throughout the kingdom, for the support of these schools, amount to £616 5*s.* 7*d.* yearly: but the whole of this is not paid; fourteen of the dioceses do not at all contribute, and such as do contribute, which are twenty in number, pay at an average £30 16*s.* 3*d.* yearly."

"It is hoped that it would not be thought too heavy a charge if each diocese should, on a reappointment under the said Act of Elizabeth, contribute such an annual sum as would, upon an average, produce £50 yearly from each diocese. The total produce of this charge would amount to £1,700 yearly. The rateage of £30 16*s.* 3*d.* yearly, being the average sum now payable by each of the several dioceses, would, if each diocese were charged—and all are equally liable to the act—amount to the yearly sum of £1,047 12*s.* 6*d.* This small increase of £652 7*s.* 6*d.* yearly, divided among thirty-four dioceses, would not, it is hoped, be found burthensome, when the respective counties are recommended to contribute a yearly sum of the same amount, and when the object to be attained is of such general and great utility.

"In addition to this fund, it is supposed that £1,924 might be gained out of the sum yearly granted by Parliament to charter schools, some of which being of little public utility, on account of the difficulties of superintending them, of finding necessaries for the boys, and masters to take them as apprentices, might be suppressed.

"These several sums would amount to £5,324 yearly, and would leave an overplus after the payment of the masters of £3,564 yearly, which would defray the expense of 396 exhibitions for the support of gratuitous scholars at the diocesan schools, at £9 yearly each, which would be at the rate of eighteen boys for each of the twenty-two bishoprics; and it is recommended that the said boys should be appointed by the bishop and his clergy assembled in visitation.

Diocesan Free Schools.

"It is with extreme reluctance that we propose the smallest addition to the burthens of the clergy; but we are obliged to take the laws as we find them, and to follow the principles of those laws as far as they fairly lead to a general system of education useful to this country."

No step appears to have been taken by the Lord Lieutenant to make appointments for the dioceses then vacant, nor were any new arrangements made as to the emoluments to be paid to the teachers. The other suggestions of the Commissioners, which required Parliamentary intervention, do not appear to have been brought before Parliament.

Vide p. 19, *supra*.

The next inquiry into diocesan schools was made by the Commissioners of Education Inquiry in 1809. In their Report on diocesan schools they state that "at no time do they appear to have fully answered the purposes of their institution," and that "there are several dioceses unprovided with proper school-houses, and some without any; and the general benefit derived from the whole institution is far from corresponding with the intention of the Legislature, or even with the number of schools actually kept, or supposed to be so. It appears from an abstract of the returns made from the several dioceses, and herewith submitted to your Grace, that out of the whole number, thirty-four, composing twenty-two archbishoprics and bishoprics, only ten are provided with diocesan school-houses in tolerable repair; in three others, the houses are either out of repair or otherwise insufficient; and the remainder are wholly unprovided, and the masters of such schools as are kept in them either rent houses for the purpose or are accommodated in other ways. But it appears from the same returns that in some of them no diocesan school is kept at all, and in others, no effective one, and that the whole number of effective schools in all the dioceses together is only thirteen, and that the whole number of scholars in all the schools together does not exceed 380. In the greater part of the dioceses in which no school is kept, there is no contribution from the clergy for the payment of a master; but in some instances the salary is actually paid by the clergy to a nominal master, who either keeps no school at all, or one on a different foundation, in which the diocesan is wholly absorbed." This indicates that the schools continued, in 1809, in the same unsatisfactory state as in 1791.

Comrs. of Educ. Ir. 4th Rep. 1809, pp. 113, 114.

The Commissioners of 1809 then proceed to offer recommendations, which are introduced with the observation that "it may seem to be doubtful whether a system should be continued, which in its principle appears not altogether equitable, and has never been found efficient in practice; which is not called for by the present state of society; and, considered as a tax on the clergy, operates very partially and unequally, twelve out of the thirty-four dioceses contributing nothing towards its object." "If, however," they continue, "it should be deemed imprudent to abandon altogether long-established foundations, which, however imperfect or inadequate, are still productive of some advantage, we take the liberty of recommending"—"that instead of requiring a school to be kept in every diocese, which has been already found impracticable, a certain number only should be established in every province, to be supported out of the contributions from each diocese in the province." They further recommend that the average of the contributions from each diocese should be raised from £36 to £40, which they presumed would not bear hard on the clergy, especially if Impropriators were obliged to contribute, and the sons of the poorer clergy were to be admitted into the schools as free scholars.

Ibid. pp. 114, 115.

The suggestion of the Commissioners of 1809 as to the union of Dioceses into Districts was adopted in the Act of 1813. It was provided by the 24th section that the Commission appointed to have permanent charge of Endowed Schools, might, with the consent of the Lord Lieutenant, unite dioceses into districts, and select the places where the district schools should be kept. The Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council were empowered to fix the salaries of district masters: the bishops were to appoint collectors and receive the salaries from the clergy; and persons under disabilities were authorized to convey sites for schools to the Commissioners, who had power, likewise, to purchase as well as to

1813. 53 Geo. III. c. 107.

Diocesan Free Schools.

accept sites, and to sell or exchange those already in their possession, according as it might be deemed expedient. Also, Grand Juries were empowered to present the sums requisite for building or repairing diocesan and district schools, and for the purchase of sites for such schools.

The Act of 1813 had established the principle, that the diocesan schools were to be maintained and entrusted to the care of the Commissioners of Education. The new Board, however, refrained from the exercise of their powers until specially called on by the Irish Government about seven years afterwards. The first steps towards the improvement of diocesan schools, after the passing of the Act, were taken by the Grand Juries of the county and city of Limerick in 1816, by making presentments for building a schoolhouse, the old one having been reported to be in ruins, and the mastership vacant.

1816.

1819.

The Commissioners of Education in Ireland in their Report for 1819, in speaking of the Limerick diocesan school, state that up to that date they had been unable to mature a general plan of arrangement for the district schools; and in their Report for 1820 they state that their attention had been directed by the Lord Lieutenant to the digesting of a plan for their management.

1823.
Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 5th Rep. p. 6.

In 1823 they finally settled a plan based on the following considerations:—First, that in fixing on the sites of district and diocesan schools, due regard should be had to the situation of other classical schools of public and private foundation; secondly, that schools for the dioceses and districts should be established (so far as might be practicable and consistent with the foregoing principles) in such of the houses provided for the diocesan schools as were in tenantable repair; and thirdly, that no consolidation should be made of schools subjected to the jurisdiction of distinct metropolitans.

They proposed that twenty-nine dioceses should be united into thirteen districts, and five dioceses remain separate: an arrangement which continues unchanged up to the present day, with the exception of the cases of the dioceses of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross, which have been disunited, and three schools founded, and of the dioceses of Killala and Achonry, which have been united to Tuam.

1824.
Dublin Gazette, 17th April.

In 1824, the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, adopted the plan of the Commissioners of Education, and appointed salaries for the masters varying from £40 to £200, and contributions from each diocese from £15 to £100—the total amount thus to be raised being £1,790 (Irish), of which only £616 5*s.* 7*d.* was previously assessed in the twenty dioceses which alone supported masters.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 368.

In 1824, the Commissioners of Education recommended an application to be made to the Judges of Assize to urge the Grand Juries to carry out the Statutes of Elizabeth and George III., by making presentments for the schoolhouses. The Grand Juries, however, exercised the discretion they believed vested in them, by declining to make the presentments in most instances. The efforts of the Commissioners led to the foundation of three of the schools that are now best provided with houses—those of Monaghan, Ballymena, and Downpatrick.

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 5th Rep. 1827.

The Commissioners of Education Inquiry of 1825, were specially directed to report upon the diocesan free schools. They did so, accordingly, in May, 1827; and in the Appendix to their Report, show that of the eighteen schools, the endowments of which had been fixed, in 1824, by the Lord Lieutenant and Council, no less than six were then vacant, the Lord Lieutenant not having exercised his power of appointing masters. In two of the others there were no pupils, and in four there were less than eleven pupils, leaving only six out of the eighteen diocesan or district schools in a satisfactory condition as to attendance of pupils.

Nine were returned as having no houses, two as having old houses unsuited for schools, one as being badly placed, two as having houses in process of being built, and only four of the eighteen as being at that time adequately provided with schoolhouses.

Ibid. p. 19.

The same Commissioners then state—"We consider it extremely doubtful whether any attempt to establish permanent schoolhouses, appropriated for the diocesan schools, will be found ultimately successful. It has been seen that every endeavour hitherto made for that purpose from the reign of Elizabeth has failed, and that in fact there never were so few, either of schools or scholars, as at the present moment." "Instances have occurred in which there is reason to believe that masters of diocesan schools have even discouraged the attendance of pupils, being content with the salary, however small, when connected with the further advantage of a dispensation from ecclesiastical residence, which has hitherto been considered as attaching to their situation." They recommend that

Ibid. p. 20.

Ibid.

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Grand Juries objected to present for schoolhouses, where the schools were vacant.

The Commissioners stated another reason, in their Report of 1830, for the failure of their efforts to establish the diocesan schools on a proper footing:—That the indisposition of the Grand Juries to present money, arose from "misapprehension of the nature and constitution of these schools, which were erroneously supposed by many, not to be open to free scholars of whatever religious persuasion."

Ev. 21215.

In 1830 the Commissioners, in order to remove this misapprehension, issued a circular letter; and in their annual Report for the following year, they made public the issue of this circular, stating that the diocesan schools were free schools, intended by the Legislature for children (of whatever religious persuasion) to obtain a classical education free of expense.

Ev. 21216.
Ev. 1196, 2466-7, 7387, 9006. 13926.

Dr. Kyle, however, who has been the secretary of the Commissioners since 1835, was not aware of any such circular being in existence; and several of the masters denied the obligation to receive free pupils at all, so that the circular of 1830 was not followed up by efficient steps to remove the misapprehension as to the right of admission of free pupils.

The Commissioners also proceeded, in their Report for 1831, to urge on the Government the introduction of a measure to give them effectual powers for having schoolhouses built. No measure, however, was introduced to increase the powers of the Board, and no appointments were made by the Lord Lieutenant to the masterships of the vacant schools.

1835.

In 1835, the Select Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to inquire into foundation schools in Ireland, ascertained that the masterships of six of the diocesan schools were vacant, and that there were but twelve schools in operation. Of those in operation only six had more than twenty-five pupils, on an average for the five preceding years, and no more than these six, therefore, could be considered in a satisfactory condition.

Committee on Foundation Schools, Report, 1838, p. 48.

The Committee in their Report stated the following defects in the existing system of administration of diocesan free schools:—

"1. The uncertainty of the law, or the varying interpretation given to its provisions.

"The difference of opinion as to the objects of these schools, the rights of the public, and the obligations of the contributors, masters, and Commissioners, is injurious. It is not generally understood whether they are designed for gratuitous education, and open to all persuasions, or are classical boarding schools preparatory to the University, principally intended for the upper classes; whether the Grand Juries, masters, or Commissioners, have a right to interfere; what is the nature of this right, &c., &c. The collision of the parties tends to neutralize attempts at general or local improvement. The Lord Lieutenant will not appoint masters unless a salary be secured; the salary is refused by the clergy, unless the school be built by the Grand Jury; the Grand Jury refuses to build the school, unless the master stipulates to receive a certain number of free scholars; the master refuses to receive free scholars on the compulsion of the Grand Jury; and the Commissioners will not, or cannot, enforce the right either on the part of the Grand Jury or their own.

"2. The mode of collecting the contributions is objectionable.

"The contributions from the clergy are collected in small sums. The trouble of collection is thrown on the master. Delay, irregularity, and confusion are admitted.

"3. There is no security for a good class of buildings.

"Of those at present used, some seem not to have been intended for schools, and are situated often in the least eligible situations.

"4. The masters have too unlimited an authority.

"The Commissioners exercise no efficient superintendence; there is no constant inspection; there is no local committee. No specific rules are prescribed for their conduct. The differences existing upon the very nature of their obligations and duties are decisive proofs.

"5. The schools are not sufficiently numerous for the wants of the country.

"In the south and west, especially, several districts are unprovided with a diocesan school."

The Committee also state, that the diocesan schools seem "to have almost exclusively confined themselves to preparation for the learned professions. The commercial classes have found in them scanty means for the supply of their

peculiar intellectual necessities." * * * The [illegible] to Greek, Latin, and a small proportion of the [illegible] geography, history, &c., &c."

With respect to the question whether the [illegible] not, the Committee referred to the evidence of William [illegible] had been Secretary to the Commissioners of Education [illegible] 1835, and who has since filled the office of Ecclesiastical [illegible] He stated before the Committee:—

"I am not aware of any thing either in the laws of the [illegible] lations of the Board, to preclude a Roman Catholic from being [illegible] mastership of a diocesan school." And also—"As I am aware [illegible] missioners of Education have stated, in their correspondence with the [illegible] of the Grand Jury, that the religious tenets of Catholics according [illegible] should not be interfered with, I see no hardship in charging the [illegible] with the support of these schools."

The Committee also referred to the evidence of William [illegible] who was then, and has since been, Secretary to the Commissioners of Edu- cation. He stated—"There is nothing to preclude the Lord Lieutenant [illegible] appointing members of the Catholic or Presbyterian communions on the [illegible] of Commissioners of Education in Ireland; and many of those who are [illegible] members may happen to be Roman Catholics, without the appointment of the Lord Lieutenant, and in spite of the Lord Lieutenant."

In 1838 the Committee stated their opinion—"That the diocesan schools were [illegible] intended by the Legislature to be open to all, without distinction of sect or [illegible] open gratuitously, at least, to a large proportion;" and further, that—"There is [illegible] no law now in force requiring the teachers to be of the Established religion: and Mr. Quin, the former secretary, declares no religious test is exacted, nor is there any thing which could preclude a Roman Catholic or Presbyterian from being appointed by the Lord Lieutenant (in whose hands such right is vested) to the mastership of any one of these schools."

The Committee proposed to include the diocesan schools in a general plan of academical education. They were of opinion, that there should be in each county in Ireland "one academy, at least, combining classical and scientific instruction;" and when supplying the existing deficiency, they would not deem it advisable to leave the present schools in their actual condition, and found other institutions for commercial and industrial instruction, but they thought it preferable "that advantage should be taken of the present system, enlarging, improving, and extending it, so as to render it applicable to both commercial and classical education, and thus fit it to the wants, at the same time, of both the middle and upper classes." Ibid. p. 65

They considered the means by which the diocesan schools might be incorporated with a general system of academical education in Ireland, and for this purpose they recommended the repeal of existing Acts with respect to diocesan schools; that the clergy, instead of paying the diocesan schoolmaster, should compound for their contributions with the Government at a specified value; that the Grand Juries, instead of presenting for the building of the diocesan schoolhouses, should present for the annual repairs of the proposed academies and the salaries of the teachers—the building of the academies, wherever required, to be defrayed out of Parliamentary grants. In this manner it was proposed to abolish diocesan schools as separate institutions, to incorporate them with academies for the diffusion of education, and to apply to the support of these academies the revenues of the diocesan schools, or the compositions payable instead of them. Ibid. pp. 66–7.

The recommendation on such authority of the total subversion of the existing system appears to have stopped all further efforts on the part of those in charge of diocesan schools for their improvement. After the Report of this Committee, we find no further presentments for building by the Grand Juries; and the Commissioners of Education, in their Reports for 1844, 1845, 1848, and 1850, complained that it was impossible to get presentments even for the repairs of the schools, and that in most instances, the "schoolhouses were becoming dilapidated and ruinous in consequence." The Lord Lieutenant took no step to fill the vacant masterships; on the contrary, the number of vacancies increased.

As a result of the evidence of Dr. Kyle on this subject, it appears "that the following district diocesan schools, for which salaries were appointed by the Lord Ev. 21369.

DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOLS.

Lieutenant, namely:—Cashel, £100; Ardfert and Aghadoe, £80; Waterford and Lismore, £90; Clonfert and Kilmacduagh, £40; and Killala and Achonry, £50; making in the aggregate, £360, have not been in operation for upwards of twenty years. And that Cloyne, with a salary of £100, has not been in operation for five years; and that Wicklow, with a salary of £100, has not been in operation for sixteen years. These salaries have never been raised or paid, and thus a sum of £9,000 has, within the last twenty years, been illegally withdrawn from the purposes of education."

Pending our inquiries, the Lord Lieutenant filled up the vacant schools of Mallow for the diocese of Cloyne, and Wicklow for the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalagh; the Commissioners of Education united the endowment for Killala and Achonry with that of Tuam; and the Lord Lieutenant appointed to the new district school, thus leaving only four schools, and endowments of only £310 (Irish), vacant. The Wicklow school has again become vacant, under circumstances noticed in connexion with that school.

Vide p. 42, *infra*.

The Commissioners of Education in their annual Reports rarely notice diocesan schools, except to complain of the dilapidation and ruin of the schoolhouses.

The Report of the Committee of 1838 led to the foundation of the Queen's Colleges in 1844, as the Reports of 1825–1828 led to the establishment of the National Schools; but in neither case were the suggestions as to intermediate schools adopted; and thus the four Inquiries of 1788, 1809, 1827, and 1838, have left the diocesan schools in the same unsatisfactory state in which they were found seventy years ago.

From 1838 to the present time, Parliamentary Returns have been occasionally ordered as to diocesan and other schools in Ireland, and these returns are noticed in the Documentary Evidence relating to some of these schools, read at our Public Courts.

In 1850, the Commissioners of Education in their Annual Report state—"Feeling the value of constant and periodical supervision, we have determined to request the Bishops of the different dioceses to appoint from time to time, in their respective localities, competent persons to inspect the various diocesan schools, and to report to us such matters as shall appear to them to be deserving of remark in the management of these schools, and the instruction given in them." It did not, however, appear before us that this resolution had ever been acted on, or that any inspection had been carried out under the direction of the Bishops.

BALLINA DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County of Mayo, for the Dioceses of Achonry and Killala.*

This district school was established in 1824. No appointment appears to have been ever made by the Lord Lieutenant, either for the separate dioceses before their union, or for the district since, and no schoolhouse was provided by the county.

This district school has during our inquiries ceased to exist as a separate institution, having been united, by warrant of the Commissioners of Education and the Lord Lieutenant, dated 29th September, 1857, with Tuam, so as to form the new district school at Tuam.

BALLYMENA DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County of Antrim, for the Dioceses of Armagh and Connor.*

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 5 Rep. 1827, p. 11.

There never was any diocesan school in existence for the diocese of Armagh, although the patronage was vested in the Archbishop. There is none mentioned in the Reports of 1791, 1809–10, or of 1827. But it does not appear whether the non-existence of this school is to be imputed to the omission by the Lord Lieutenant and Council to fix a salary, or to the neglect of the Archbishop of Armagh to appoint a master.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 367.

For the diocese of Connor there was a school in 1788, at Carrickfergus, then the county town of Antrim. There were thirteen scholars, and no house. In 1809–10 there was a master, but no scholars. In 1824, the dioceses of Armagh and Connor were united, and the district school fixed at Ballymena; until 1827, however, there was neither schoolhouse nor master. At that time, however, the proprietor granted a site, the Grand Jury presented £1,000

Irish; and an efficient school was established, for we find that the number of scholars from 1830 to 1835 varied from twenty-two to forty-four day scholars, and from eight to nineteen boarders. We find again that in 1852 the number of boys was thirty-two. At present, by the report of our Assistant Commissioner, it appears that when he visited the school there were twenty-five on the roll, of whom eighteen were day scholars, three of these being free, and two at half charges.

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Our Assistant Commissioner states in his report—"I consider the master of this school a perfectly qualified person to teach a school of this nature, and the locality would seem eminently suitable for a good classical and mercantile seminary, but the endowment appears too stinted to secure the undivided attention of a competent master, and can scarcely be held but as an accessary to a parochial charge. This circumstance hinders the school from answering its purpose, to any considerable extent, as a place of resort to the children of the middle classes of the town, who must be much more numerous than is represented by the attendance. If the endowments cannot be increased, the appointment of head master should be confined to a class of teachers who might consider the salary a sufficient remuneration for their entire time and attention. At present the amount of salary is not adapted to the class of teachers appointed, and the public object in the endowment is almost entirely defeated. As a free school, it can scarcely be considered open to the class of pupils who would be most likely to avail themselves of its advantages, as the master looking to his remuneration from the wealthier and more respectable classes, finds it necessary to keep the school select and exclusive."

Tables, vol. iii. p. 446.

We are of opinion that it is objectionable for the master of a diocesan school to be allowed to hold it in connexion with any other office or appointment, such as the charge of a parish.

CARLOW DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County of Carlow, for the Dioceses of Ossory and Leighlin.*

The first notice we have of Carlow Diocesan School is in the Report of 1791, which states that it was in existence at Carlow in 1788, and had in it twenty-five boys. In the report of 1809, it is stated that the house was then in good order, and the number of boys twenty-two. The Commissioners of 1827 reported that the school for the diocese of Leighlin had been held at Carlow, as far back as could be traced; but we find that in 1612 the school was at Maryborough, the assize town of the adjoining county.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 368.

Mant's Hist. Ir. Church, vol. i. p. 374.

In 1824 the endowment for Ossory was united with that of Leighlin to form the district school of Carlow; and there were, in 1827, eighty-nine boys in the school.

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 5 Rep. pp. 13, 24.

The master brought under our notice, at our court at Carlow, the efforts that he had made to procure the repair of the schoolhouse. He stated that at his appointment, in 1845, the house was in a ruinous condition, and that there were no funds available for repairing it. He applied to the Commissioners of Education on the subject, and, at the request of the bishop of the diocese, forwarded a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant; but the state of the law did not afford any effectual remedy; and in 1854, he left the house owing to the danger of the roof falling in, and kept the school in premises which he rented at his own expense. We found the schoolhouse roofless, and in a state of complete dilapidation. At his examination the master referred to a singular defect in the Act of 1813, the Grand Jury being enabled to limit the presentment, if they chose to make one, to the support of a school for one diocese, while the master for the district could not accept the assistance of the Grand Jury under such a condition, without forfeiting so much of his salary as arose out of the diocese excluded from the presentment. This defect had been removed by statute in 1822; but, in 1836, the restriction in the Act of Geo. III. was incorporated in the Grand Jury Act without any notice being taken of its repeal by that of 1822. Thus, a defect which the Commissioners thought important enough to require amendment in 1822, was re-enacted in 1836, without any apparent opposition on their part, and still continues in force. In the case of the Carlow school the Grand Jury, it seems, would have made it a condition to exclude from the benefit of a presentment one of the two dioceses, that of Ossory.

Ev. 16 *et seq.*

Ev. 4 *et seq.*

53 Geo. III. cap. 107, sec. 28.

3 Geo. IV. c. 79, s. 10.

6 and 7 Wm. IV. c. 116, s. 96.

There are now only eight boys on the roll, and our Assistant Commissioner reports that the state of education in the school is unsatisfactory. He observes, that

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Tables, vol. iii. p. 9.

"It does seem remarkable that a school thus handsomely endowed should have dwindled away almost to nothing, and that the school premises should have been suffered to fall to ruin. In the time of the previous master, the school was very largely attended, both by boarders and day scholars; the attendance now is miserable to a degree. Strange as it may appear, other teachers in the town, although deriving no income from any endowment, manage to live by their exertions, in instructing the children of the inhabitants, while Mr. Scott's school with all its advantages, is almost deserted."

The circumstances of this case suggest the conclusion that the Grand Jury Act of 1836 should be amended by the re-enactment of the provisions of the 3rd Geo. IV. c. 79, s. 10, so as to deprive a Grand Jury of the power of insisting on the disunion of two dioceses, previous to granting a presentment for repairs.

We also recommend that diocesan schoolhouses, when built by Grand Juries, should be placed under the care of the Commissioners of Public Works, to be by them kept in repair; and that the Commissioners should applot the cost of repairs over the entire diocesan district to which the school belongs, whether corresponding with a county, or with part of one or more counties, and that the amount so certified should be an imperative presentment.

CORK DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *for the Diocese of Cork.*

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 367.

Com. of Ed. Rep. 1809, p. 116.

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 5th Rep. 1827, p. 24.

Ev. 1188.

In 1788 the school for Cork was held in a dark room, and the schoolhouse was in a miserable condition. There were then fifty-eight boys, of whom none were free. In 1809 there were seventy boys, none free; and in 1827, the number of boys was ninety-seven, of whom twelve were free. There is no diocesan schoolhouse, and the present master conducts the school in his private residence. He states that he never heard of any rule as to the admission of free pupils; that he admits them as he likes, and limits himself to ten, the number then on the roll. He also states, that in his selection he is influenced by the inability of the parents to pay, giving a preference to the sons of the clergy, as his salary comes from that body, and receiving the children of artisans, with a preference to orphans, if the ten free places are not filled by the sons of the clergy.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that the school is very fairly conducted as a private one for day scholars.

There are fifty-three pupils on the roll; of whom one is a Roman Catholic, and fifty-two are Protestants, thirty-nine of these belonging to the United Church. There were eight free pupils on the roll, five of whom were present.

DOWNPATRICK DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County of Down, for the Dioceses of Down and Dromore.*

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 367.

Ev. 10267.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 536, 563.

The Commissioners of 1791 report that the schoolhouse at Dromore was in ruins for want of repairs, as the master could not procure county presentments. There were in 1788 nine boys, none free. The school at Downpatrick had, at the same time, twenty boys, of whom there were none free. In 1809 there was no house at Downpatrick, and no free scholars. In 1824 the two diocesan schools were united into one district school, and the Grand Jury of the county Down presented £1,000 shortly afterwards, for building the schoolhouse. We found at the time of our inquiry that there were no free pupils, and that the master conducted all the business and kept no assistant.

Our Assistant Commissioner subsequently inspected the school, and reports it as not in a satisfactory condition. Although a spacious schoolhouse has been built at considerable expense to the county, no benefit results except to those who dwell in the immediate neighbourhood of the school, as the master does not take boarders. The number of pupils on the roll is twenty-three, and the few present, who were examined by our Assistant Commissioner, proved generally backward, their deficiency being peculiarly manifest in the most elementary branches of education.

Where a schoolhouse like this, suited for the reception of boarders, has been erected at the public expense, it ought not to be left optional with the master to take boarders or not; and we think that the Commissioners of Education ought to inquire into the cause of there being no boarders in the school at present.

We noticed with disapprobation the fact that there were no free pupils in the school at the time of our inquiry, and only one at the time of our Assistant Commissioner's inspection; though the county contributed so liberally to build the schoolhouse.

DUNGARVAN DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County of Waterford, for the Dioceses of Waterford and Lismore.* DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOLS.

In 1824 Dungarvan was appointed as the site of a district school for the two dioceses of Waterford and Lismore. It does not appear that, either before their union or subsequently, either of these endowments was in operation, or that any schoolhouse was provided by the county.

We are of opinion that this endowment, at present amounting to £83 1*s.* 6*d.*, should not be allowed to remain longer dormant. The most effectual way of bringing it into operation would, we believe, be to unite it with the endowment of £92 6*s.* 2*d.* for the Dioceses of Cashel and Emly, and to form an efficient school at Waterford, where the endowment of the Grammar School has been curtailed by the Corporation, and is in danger of further diminution.

ELPHIN DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County Roscommon, for the Diocese of Elphin.*

We visited and received evidence as to the state of this school. In 1788 the house was in good repair, but there were no pupils. In 1809 there were thirty-one pupils, of whom twenty-two were day scholars, and seven of them free. The Report of the Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry, 1826, mentions the number of boys as nineteen, of whom ten were Protestants, and nine Roman Catholics. In 1831 it is stated that there were eleven free pupils; but at the time of our inquiry there were no free pupils. The boarders are seventeen in number, all Protestants, and the day scholars thirteen in number, all Roman Catholics. Thus the principle of the foundation has been long carried out in this school, so far as regards the attendance of persons of different religious persuasions.

Ev. 7336. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 367. Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 2nd Rep. p. 1301.

In 1844 the Grand Jury of the County of Roscommon made a liberal presentment for the repairs of the school; but the master complained to us that although the schoolhouse was in a ruinous state, the Grand Jury had recently rejected a presentment for repairs. Mr. Kelly, a magistrate of the county, stated that the grounds of the rejection were that no free pupils were admitted.

Ev. 7436. Ev. 7345. Ev. 7441.

The master stated that there were no free pupils, and that he did not consider himself under any obligation to receive them; that he had received no instructions from the Commissioners of Education to such an effect; that the school was not inspected, and that there was no interference whatever with regard to the management of the school except an annual return required by the Commissioners of Education.

Ev. 7387.

Mr. Kelly stated that he thought the Grand Jury would be willing to make a presentment for repairs if a moderate number of free pupils received the benefits of the institution; so that in this case the state of the school, with respect to repairs, would seem to arise, not from the illiberality of the Grand Jury, but from an omission on the part of the Commissioners of Education to make known to the master and to those interested in deriving advantages from the school, its real constitution with respect to free pupils, as defined by themselves in 1831.

Ev. 7443.

Our Assistant Commissioner, who inspected the school, reports very unfavourably of the state of instruction. In classics and science, and everything else except writing from dictation, the pupils were very backward. But, while he finds fault with the state of instruction, he gives the master credit for the care and attention bestowed on the material wants and comforts of the pupils.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 721.

The salary of the master at Elphin at present amounts to only £73 16*s.* 11*d.*, and the Hodgson endowment has recently been withdrawn from the school. We think that the emoluments might be raised to a suitable amount by the addition of the endowment for the adjoining dioceses of Clonfert and Kilmacduagh, which now amounts to £36 18*s.* 5*d.*, and has not been brought into operation.

LIMERICK DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County of Limerick, for Dioceses of Limerick, Killaloe, and Kilfenora.*

Our attention was directed to the state of the diocesan school of Limerick by the Mayor of Limerick, and also by Mr. Vandeleur, the chairman of a committee appointed by the Grand Jury to inquire into the school. They complained that the conditions on which the Grand Juries had made a presentment for the building of the schoolhouse had not been complied with.

Ev. 2399, 2682.

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Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 368.
Com. Educ. 4 Rep. 1809, p. 116.
53 Geo. III. c. 107, s. 28.

It appears that there had been a school at Limerick in 1788, with a house in bad condition; there were then twenty-six boys, but none free. There was at the same time a school at Killaloe, with nineteen boys, of whom two were free, but no schoolhouse. In 1809 there was no available schoolhouse at Limerick, the old one being in ruins; but there was a schoolhouse with a garden at Killaloe, and twenty-eight boys, but no free scholars.

Ev. 2430.

The Grand Juries of the county and city of Limerick were the first to exercise the enlarged powers conferred on them in 1813 to present for schoolhouses; and they began to create a fund for the purpose in 1816. This fund amounted to the sum of about £1,640 in 1823; but by a singular defect in the law the greater part of it was allowed to remain for many years in the hands of the Treasurer of the county of Limerick, interest free, and without any special security. The Commissioners of Education complained in their annual reports, that they were unable to obtain possession of the money, and they seem to have been equally unable to induce the Government to increase their powers so far as to enable them to compel the lodgment of the money, as in the case of other endowments entrusted to their care. In 1837, the money was at length handed over to a committee of management for the building of the schoolhouse. Thus, in the application, under an Act of Parliament, of public funds to a public trust, by two public bodies, an interval of upwards of twenty years was suffered to elapse, without, apparently, any power being vested in a competent authority to prevent the evils of delay, or possible misappropriation.

Coms. of Educ. Reps. 1833–4.

Ibid.

Ev. 2466.

The order for the payment of the money presented was finally made in consequence of a report of the Committee of Management, from which it appeared that the Lord Lieutenant, the Commissioners of Education, and the Rev. Mr. Hogg, the master of the school at the time of our inquiry, had adopted the rules and regulations proposed by former Grand Juries as the conditions on which the schoolhouse was to be built at the expense of the county. These provided for "the education of twenty free scholars, without religious distinction," on the nomination of the Grand Jury. It was shown, however, by the Rev. Mr. Hogg, that the trustees appointed by the Grand Jury never exercised the right of nomination, to which they apparently attached so much importance. Mr. Vandeleur stated that it had ceased to be generally known that such a right of nomination existed. Complaining of the general want of education in Limerick, he had been told of the diocesan school; and on reference to the Grand Jury books he had discovered the privilege of nominating free pupils, which many of the gentlemen of the Grand Jury had not previously been aware of. The master further denied the right of any one to nominate free pupils, except the Grand Jury. This denial on his part is remarkable, as he was appointed only a few years after the Commissioners of Education had published a circular addressed to the masters, stating, that they were bound to receive the children of residents free; a circular which ought to have been communicated to new masters as well as to those in office in 1830.

Ev. 2457–8.

Ev. 2431.

Ev. 2692.

Ev. 21215.

The Grand Jury complained of the small number of scholars educated. We found only five present in a school where there had been as many as seventy-four in 1838. One of our Commission examined the boys, and found the state of education extremely deficient. The school, it appeared, was subject to no inspection. We examined witnesses with respect to the causes of the decline of the school, and we came to the conclusion that the master, in his present infirm state of health, was not likely to restore it to the state of efficiency in which he had kept it when he was a younger and more active man. A year subsequently to our visit, the school was inspected by our Assistant Commissioner, who found it in a very unsatisfactory state. There was then but one pupil under instruction.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 355.

The master has since resigned, on being appointed to a living in the diocese of Limerick, and a new master has been appointed.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 301.

We received a memorial from the bishop and clergy of the Dioceses of Killaloe and Kilfenora, which was not before us when our court was held at Limerick. The memorial states, that formerly there was a diocesan school efficiently conducted at Killaloe, in the county of Clare, but that it had since been annexed to the Limerick district school, to the support of which the contributions of Killaloe and Kilfenora, £75 a year, are now applied, while the clergy of those dioceses receive no benefit from it. The memorial then suggests, that on the next vacancy of the mastership of the Limerick school, this sum of £75 should be transferred to

a school in the diocese of Killaloe and Kilfenora, for the purpose of assisting the poorer clergy in educating their children by the establishment of scholarships, or the endowment of exhibitions in Trinity College, or in any other way that might be approved of. The memorial also suggested that the only endowed school now in the dioceses of Killaloe and Kilfenora, namely, that under the Board of Erasmus Smith, at Ennis, should be made to aid in promoting the object of the memorial, the benefit of the sons of the clergy of Killaloe and Kilfenora.

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Although the Commissioners of Education, with the consent of the Lord Lieutenant, have full power to disunite the dioceses and appoint masters for each, they have no power to make any other application of the funds of the endowment, such as that suggested by the memorial; and we think that the proposal to convert the diocesan school endowment, which is not exclusive, into exhibitions attached to an exclusive trust like that of the Erasmus Smith foundation, is one that ought not to be acceded to.

We do not recognize that the payment of the diocesan school tax by the clergy gives them claims to direct benefits from the schools in priority to other inhabitants, as the tax was intended to be a charge on their income for the benefit of the inhabitants of the district generally.

The circumstances disclosed in our investigation of this case indicate most plainly the need of subjecting the diocesan schools to a proper system of superintendence and control.

They also manifest the expediency of establishing a system of retiring allowances for schoolmasters disabled by age or infirmity, after long and efficient service. They further show the necessity of an authoritative and public definition of the right of admission of free scholars in free schools.

Owing to the neglect of these principles of school management, the Limerick Diocesan School has for years given rise to loud complaints—the better founded because the liberality of the Grand Juries had provided a most commodious and substantial schoolhouse.

LONDONDERRY DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *commonly called* FOYLE COLLEGE, *County of Londonderry, for Diocese of Derry.*

The Londonderry School is the best endowed of the diocesan schools, as considerable endowments from the Irish Society are attached to it. In 1788 there were forty-one boys in the school, of whom six were free. In 1809 there were forty-eight, of whom three were free.

In 1809, an Act of Parliament was passed, in which it was recited, that the endowment of the school was too small for the exigencies of the public, that the site was unsuitable, and that the Corporation of Londonderry had resolved to provide a fund for the establishment of such a seminary as was required. It was then provided that the Bishop of Derry, and the Dean and Chapter, should be trustees of the school, and empowered to sell the old site and buildings, and take conveyance of any property for the school notwithstanding the statutes of mortmain. The Bishop was also empowered to grant a new site of part of the see lands in a suitable situation. Under this Act the present handsome and commodious schoolhouse was built in 1814, at an expense of about £13,000 by means of subscriptions from the Bishop, the London Companies, the Irish Society, and the Grand Jury of the county of Londonderry.

49 Geo. III. c. 59, (L. P.)

The annual subscriptions, formerly given by the Corporation of Derry and the London Companies, with the exception of the Mercers' Company, which still pays £50, have been withdrawn; and the only other endowments are £50 from the Bishop, £430 from the Irish Society, and £40 from the Clergy. The endowment is much larger than that of any other diocesan school, and it is the only diocesan school which has exhibitions attached to it. In 1846 the Irish Society increased their subscriptions from £140 to £280, and in 1852 their payments, including the exhibitions, amounted to £430.

Ev., 10763.

By the Acts of Parliament by which the school building was erected, twenty free pupils were to be named by the Irish Society. The power of nomination is exercised by their agent, Mr. Greene, from whose evidence it appears that the selection is left absolutely to him without any instructions from the Society, or even a copy of the Acts of Parliament to direct his conduct. No provision seems to have been made declaring or limiting the general right of the residents of the diocese to obtain free education in the school.

48 Geo. III. c. 77. 49 Geo. III. c. 59, (L. P.) Ev. 10947.

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49 Geo. III. c. 59, (L. P.)

The school is placed by the Acts of Parliament under the visitation of the Archbishop of Armagh; and there are special provisions for the making of by-laws, and the future regulation of the school.

It may be considered, therefore, as a local endowment with which the diocesan endowment has been incorporated, rather than as an ordinary diocesan school. The advantages which it enjoys seem to be evidenced by its state, for the Commissioners of 1827 report it as being then one of the best conducted and most useful diocesan schools in Ireland.

Appendix, p. 16.

Our Assistant Commissioner who inspected this school, makes a very detailed report with respect to its endowment, which is given in the Appendix to our Report.

We visited the school, and were satisfied with the state of instruction.

The master appears to have been successful in his endeavours to combine what is called an English or commercial education with a system of instruction fitting pupils to enter a University. In particular, we may notice that this was almost the only school in which we found navigation carefully taught. The domestic arrangements were marked by neatness and order. The striking contrast which exists between the satisfactory state of this school and the inefficient condition of other institutions of the same class suggests an inquiry as to the causes which have produced this result. We conceive that the most operative amongst them is the liberality of the endowment in Derry, which enables the principal master to engage the assistance of competent ushers in different departments and generally to keep the organization of the school up to a respectable standard. He stated before us in evidence that without the help of the endowment he would be unable to maintain the school in its present state of efficiency.

Ev. 10896.

LOUGHREA DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County of Galway, for the Dioceses of Clonfert and Kilmacduagh.*

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 5th Report, 1827.

This district school was established in 1824 for the dioceses of Clonfert and Kilmacduagh; but no schoolhouse was provided by the county, and it does not appear that any master was ever appointed.

As the present endowment of this school is only £36 18*s.* 5*d.*, we think it is insufficient for a school here; and we recommend that it be united with the Elphin endowment for a district school at Elphin.

MALLOW DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County of Cork, for Diocese of Cloyne.*

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 367.

In 1788 there were no pupils in this school; in 1809–10, there were thirty pupils. In 1824 the school was united with those of Cork and Ross into one district school. In 1837, the dioceses were disunited and a separate school established at Mallow for the diocese of Cloyne. The mastership of the school became vacant before 1850 and remained so until September, 1857, when the Lord Lieutenant appointed a master who has opened the school.

The size of the town of Mallow, and its position in connexion with the railway communication of the south of Ireland, marks it out as well suited for a diocesan school.

MONAGHAN DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County of Monaghan, for Dioceses of Clogher, Kilmore, and Raphoe.*

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 367.

The Commissioners of 1788 report that the school-room at Monaghan had neither floor nor ceiling, but that there were twenty-three day scholars. In the Report of 1810 it is mentioned that a schoolhouse had been commenced twelve years before, but was not finished: but by the recovery, in 1821, of the arrears of a bequest (a mismanaged charity), and with the aid of a presentment from the Grand Jury in 1825, the requisite funds were raised for building a very suitable schoolhouse. The endowments from the dioceses of Raphoe and Kilmore, where no diocesan schools appear ever to have existed, were united with that of Clogher by the Lord Lieutenant and Council, in 1824, and the endowment was raised to the very adequate amount of £130 (Irish). This salary, with the addition of £20 a-year for a mathematical master from the Cairnes endowment, along with a house and three acres of good land, made Monaghan one of the best endowed diocesan schools in Ireland. The school, however, seems never to have given satisfaction to the inhabitants; and it was made the subject of a special visitation by the Commissioners of Education in 1849.

Coms. Educ. Rep. 1825.

Ev. 8910.

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The visitors state in their report that they had found general dissatisfaction prevailing in the neighbourhood respecting the school, but that no persons were willing to give evidence on the subject; that the school was well situated, and was kept in good repair by the master, as the Grand Jury would not present for the purpose; that the school was not in a prosperous condition, though the local circumstances seem peculiarly favourable to such an establishment. They also reported, that its success rested, in a great measure, on the master's extreme unpopularity; that the school had not been visited, by order of the Commissioners of Education, during his time, and that their inspection gave them an unfavourable impression of his habits of business, and of the arrangement between him and the assistant master. They recommended that a definite system of rules and discipline should be established for the masters by the Board; and that annual visitors, appointed by the Board, should, at stated periods, report on the condition of the school.

We found an equal disinclination to give evidence; but it was manifest that the school did not give satisfaction.

The master being examined by us, as to the cause of the failure of the school, complained that he had not been able to gain the confidence of the clergy, and that Lord Rossmore, without assigning any reason, had withheld for several years the endowment of £20 for the mathematical master. Ev. 9021.

He also denied that any one had a right to present free pupils, though he admitted some of his own selection: yet the date of his appointment shows that he was in office at the time when circulars on this subject were sent, as before noticed, to all the diocesan schoolmasters. Ev. 9006.

The report of our Assistant Commissioner who inspected this school is most unfavourable. He found but ten pupils present out of seventeen on the roll. Two pupils who were said to be learning mathematics were absent. Those present were examined in Latin and French grammar, writing from dictation, and a few other subjects, and acquitted themselves badly throughout. Tables, vol. iii. p. 633.

As the result of our inquiry, we think that a *prima facie* case of unfitness of the master is made out, and we recommend that, as he holds his appointment during the pleasure of the Crown, such proceedings should be taken as would enable the Lord Lieutenant to decide whether he ought in this case to exercise his power of superseding the master.

MULLINGAR DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County of Westmeath, for the Dioceses of Meath and Ardagh.*

Mullingar diocesan school was founded in 1824 in the county town of Westmeath, in place of two diocesan schools that had previously existed in the county towns of Meath and Longford. The Commissioners of Education sold the sites at these latter places, and thereby created a fund of £380 for building a schoolhouse at Mullingar; but they seem to have had no undertaking from the Grand Jury of the county of Westmeath to build a schoolhouse there. In their earlier reports they make frequent complaints of being unable to induce the Grand Jury to make a presentment for the purpose. There is, consequently, no schoolhouse now for the district. Ev. 13128.

The union of the diocesan school endowments of Meath and Ardagh was allowed to continue, notwithstanding the report of the Commissioners of Education Inquiry in 1827, in favour of the continuance of the school at Longford, where the attendance for a single diocese, and with a smaller endowment, was greater than it has ever been for both dioceses at Mullingar.

It appeared in evidence before us that the school was not in operation so far as the education of pupils was concerned. In 1841 there were ten, but at the time of our visit we found the school empty. In answer to our inquiries respecting the right of admission of free pupils, the master stated that he was left entirely to his own discretion by the Commissioners of Education as to receiving them or not. In addition to what came before us in evidence, we received other complaints about this school, which show that the public derive no advantage whatever from the endowment, and that there has been no interference on the part of the Commissioners, although the annual returns furnished by the master indicated to them the state of the school. This shows the importance of the recommendation of the Commissioners of 1827, that "the Board of Education should appoint an Inspector annually to visit the diocesan schools, and report their state to the Board, and that the Board should give their directions

Ev. 13148–9. Ev. 13189 *et. seq.* Ev. vol. ii. p. 301. Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 5 Rep. 1827, p. 22.

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generally with respect to the system of instruction and the regulations to be observed." "That every diocesan school should be subjected to their visitation, as well as to that of the several bishops, and that the masters should be liable to be removed by the authority of the Board, if circumstances should require it."

Tables, vol. iii. p. 229.

Our Assistant Commissioner, who inspected the school at a subsequent period, found the number of pupils in attendance but three, and the proficiency of these far below that of boys in an average National school.

We think that the state of this school affords a *prima facie* proof of unfitness in the master, and that an inquiry should be at once held for the purpose of determining whether the office of master ought to be vacated.

NAAS DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County of Kildare, for the Diocese of Kildare.*

Ev. 13907.

We received evidence with regard to the diocesan school of Kildare, and visited the school which is held at Naas. In 1788 there were no pupils; in 1809-10 there were twenty; and in 1821, eighteen. The Commissioners of 1827 stated that the Grand Jury of the county of Kildare had recently presented £500 for the repairs of the school. A further presentment for repairs was made within the last few years. There were no free scholars in 1835, neither had any been received for five years prior to 1854. At the time of our visit the master returned one free pupil. He had only eleven pupils, of whom six were his own children. Though there were as many as ten boarders in 1809-10, the present master has had no boarders since 1844. The master stated that he did not consider himself bound to receive free pupils; a respectable inhabitant of the town deposed before us, that a successful school would be secured if arrangements were made for the admission of some free pupils. The master accounted for the state of his school, as to the small number of day boys, by the withdrawal of the Roman Catholic pupils; and this, although the Scriptures were not read in the school each day until after the Roman Catholics had left. The number of Roman Catholics in attendance at the school has varied at different periods from three to fifteen. The chairman of the Town Commissioners, a Roman Catholic, was examined before us, and he stated that when he was a pupil at the school many years before, he had been obliged to read "what he considered the unauthorized version of the Scriptures;" that, although this rule had been altered, Roman Catholics now objected to send their children, as the school was taught exclusively by a Protestant teacher; but that they would have no objection to send their children to the diocesan school if one of the teachers, even an assistant, was a Roman Catholic.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 368.

Ev. 13915-18.

Ev. 13924.

Ev. 13908, 13921.

Ev 13926.

Ev. 13962.

Ev. 13930-13949.

Ev. 13978-14002.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 130, 137.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports favourably of this school so far as the state of instruction is concerned. The attendance was small, the number on the roll being but thirteen, all of them members of the United Church.

ROSSCARBERY DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County of Cork, for the Diocese of Ross.*

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 367.

In 1788 there was no schoolhouse, and no pupils at Ross though the master received the endowment. In 1809-10 the master received the endowment, and had but one pupil. In 1824 the endowment of Ross was united with that of Cork and Cloyne by the Commissioners of Education; but the schools were subsequently disunited in 1837, and the contributions of the dioceses appropriated to separate masters for each. The school now appears to be in an efficient state. Our Assistant Commissioner gives a very favourable report of it.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 298, 318.

The mastership of this school has been filled up since the commencement of our proceedings. We find that though the appointment fell vacant in March, 1854, it was not filled up until after January, 1855. The gentleman then appointed is a layman.

THURLES DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County of Tipperary, for the Dioceses of Cashel and Emly.*

This district school was established in 1824 for the dioceses of Cashel and Emly. In 1788 the diocese of Cashel appears to have had a school, but the house was in ruins, and the master had been dispossessed both of it and of the half acre of land attached thereto. There were at that time, however, twenty-seven boys in the school. In 1809-10 the number had fallen to sixteen. In 1813 the

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 367.

school was vacant, and so continued until the removal of the endowment to Thurles in 1824. As to Emly, there is no evidence that the endowment was ever in operation. There has been no appointment to the united diocese.

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 5 Rep. p. 14.

We are of opinion that this endowment should not be allowed to remain any longer dormant, and that it should be united with that for the dioceses of Waterford and Lismore, to form an efficient school at Waterford.

Tralee Diocesan Free School, *County of Kerry, for the Dioceses of Ardfert and Aghadoe.*

We held a court at Tralee, the site appointed in 1824 for the district school of Ardfert and Aghadoe. It appears that there was no school in either of these dioceses in 1788. There was one for the diocese of Ardfert, in 1809, at Castle Island, but it had ceased to exist for several years before the report of 1827. It is there stated that, so far as could be ascertained, no diocesan school ever existed in Aghadoe. The Grand Jury of the County of Kerry, as we have already noticed, had, in several years before 1830, presented sums amounting to £700 for the purpose of building a district diocesan school at Tralee; but they re-presented the money for other purposes. No appointment having been made to the school by the Lord Lieutenant, it has been allowed to remain vacant until the present time.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 368.

Vide p. 29, *supra.*

Com. Ed. Rep. 1830.

Tralee is a town containing about ten thousand inhabitants, and is one of the most prosperous of its size in the south of Ireland. It is, therefore, well suited as a site for a diocesan school, and we recommend that the vacant mastership be at once filled up.

Tuam Diocesan Free School, *County of Galway, for the Diocese of Tuam.*

In 1788 the diocesan schoolhouse was not habitable; the number of boys was twenty-nine, of whom ten were free. In 1809 there were twenty-four boys. The schoolhouse ultimately was pulled down and the site sold, and the funds, amounting to £558, Government stock, still remain vested in the Commissioners of Education, for the purpose of building a new house.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 368.

Ev. 6064.

There was a difficulty at first in obtaining a site from the proprietor, and afterwards the Grand Jury were unwilling to present the requisite funds. We received a complaint from Dean Plunket, which was read at our public court, stating that the clergy of the diocese did not, and could not, derive the slightest benefit from the school. It appeared by Dr. Kyle's return that the number of boys had decreased to two in 1852. There were five in 1854, of whom none were boarders or free pupils. As the master did not attend before us at our public Court, held in Galway, there was no opportunity of investigating the matter; and his death shortly afterwards prevented the inspection of the school by our Assistant Commissioner, the new master not having been appointed until after the county had been inspected.

Ev. 6063.

On our addressing some inquiries to the succeeding master, we learned that he had resigned, having been appointed to a foreign chaplaincy. We did not ascertain that he had ever brought the school into operation.

The Commissioners of Education and the Lord Lieutenant, by warrant, dated 29th September, 1857, united the dioceses of Killala and Achonry with Tuam, and the Lord Lieutenant has appointed a master to the new school.

By warrant of the Privy Council, dated 3rd October, 1857, the salary is fixed at £120: £70 being payable by Tuam; £35 by Killala; and £15 by Achonry.

Wexford Diocesan Free School, *County of Wexford, for the Diocese of Ferns.*

In 1788, the school for the diocese of Ferns was held at Enniscorthy, but no building was provided for the endowment. In 1809, the school had been moved to the vicinity of Wexford, where it was then held in a new house, the number of boys amounting to fifty. No evidence was given as to the Wexford school at our public Court.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 368.

The school was inspected by one of our Assistant Commissioners, who reports favourably both as to the state of instruction and the attendance. The number on the roll is forty-nine, of whom forty-three are members of the United Church, and six Roman Catholics.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 242, 249.

It is observable that the master of this school is a layman.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that the diocesan schoolhouse is in such a bad state of repair as makes it dangerous to the inmates. We have already, in the case of Carlow school, made a suggestion that repairs of all diocesan schools built by the Grand Jury should be executed by the Board of Public Works, and that the cost when certified should be a compulsory presentment.

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WICKLOW DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOL, *County of Wicklow, for the Dioceses of Dublin and Glandalagh.*

There does not appear to have been a diocesan school for the diocese of Glandalagh before 1824, when one was established for the united dioceses of Dublin and Glandalagh. The Grand Jury for the county of Wicklow refused to present any money for the building of a diocesan schoolhouse, and since 1834 when the first master died, who had been appointed by the Archbishop of Dublin, and who held the school in connexion with the Wicklow Free School, the school has been allowed to remain vacant. There had been a diocesan school in Dublin in 1788, for the diocese of Dublin alone, attended at that time by ten boys; there were none in 1809–10; and none up to 1824, when the diocese was united with that of Glandalagh.

Ev. 13689–90.
Ev. 21368.
Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 367.

By warrant of the Commissioners of Education and the Lord Lieutenant, dated 6th May, 1823, the dioceses of Dublin and Glandalagh were declared united into one district for school purposes. The proportion of the salary payable by each diocese was fixed by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, by warrant, dated 28th February, 1824, at £55 for Dublin, and £45 for Glandalagh, on the recommendation of the Commissioners of Education, they adopting the suggestion of Archbishop Magee. The Archbishop subsequently appointed Mr. Corcoran to the mastership of the school, and applotted the salary fixed by the Privy Council on the clergy of the two dioceses, adopting a different scale of taxation for each diocese, viz.:—three shillings and one penny in the £1, on the value of benefices, in Dublin, and seven shillings on that of those in Glandalagh.

53 Geo. III. c. 107, s. 22.
Ibid. s. 24.

The school, when in existence at Wicklow, does not appear to have been a large one, as there were only five or six boys in 1827, and from 1831 to 1835, not more than fifteen. It appears strange that the mastership should have been left vacant for a period of upwards of twenty years, and that no effort should have been made by the Commissioners of Education to have the appointment filled up. It was proved in evidence before us, that there was no classical school in the town, and that the want of such an institution was much felt. The clergyman of the place stated that a classical school, if established there, would succeed; and an intelligent merchant complained that he was obliged to send one son to Chester, and other children to Holland for education, and that his was not a peculiar case.

Ev. 21370.
Ev. 13691.
Ev. 13767.

In September, 1857, the Lord Lieutenant appointed a master to the Wicklow School.

The right of alternate appointment to the district school of the united dioceses, which appeared to be vested in His Excellency, was disputed by the Archbishop of Dublin, on the grounds that, although in 1823 and 1824 the dioceses of Dublin and Glandalagh were considered distinct, yet, that at the time of the passing of the Act of Elizabeth, and for years previously, they were really only one; that the words of the Act of Elizabeth implied, that the Archbishop of Dublin had but one diocese, and could therefore only have meant the incorporated diocese of Dublin and Glandalagh. It was also argued, that even assuming Glandalagh and Dublin to have been separate dioceses at the time of the Act of Elizabeth, yet, that Glandalagh being a diocese of the Archbishop of Dublin, it would have fallen within the exceptions of the Act, and its patronage passed to the Archbishop of Dublin.

53 Geo. III. c. 107, s. 23.
12 Eliz.

The Law Officers of the Crown having expressed their opinion against the right of His Excellency to appoint, and the Archbishop having made no appointment, the school may be considered as again vacant.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS ON THE DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOLS.

Our Assistant Commissioners, in their general reports, notice the diocesan schools. Mr. Crawford directs attention to the bad state of repair of one of the two diocesan schoolhouses in his district, and suggests that, as the Grand Jury has refused to present for repairs, power should be given to charge the endowment with the cost of them.

Appendix, p. 2.

We think that the suggestion we have already made, viz.:—that where the schoolhouse has once been erected by the Grand Jury, the presentment for necessary repairs should afterwards be compulsory, is a more satisfactory way of providing for the maintenance of the schoolhouses.

Mr. Crawford observes that none of the four schools in his district answer the description of free schools.

In connexion with the Limerick school, he suggests the importance of a proper system of selecting the masters, of removing them in case of inefficiency, and of providing superannuation. Diocesan Free Schools.

Mr. Abraham reports with regard to the diocesan schools of Mullingar, Monaghan, Tuam, and Elphin, that, in their present state, they are absolutely useless. Appendix, p. 6.

Dr. M'Blain states that the appointment of a Protestant clergyman as master, without a Roman Catholic as assistant, had the effect of preventing Roman Catholics from attending the diocesan school of Naas. In the case of Carlow he notices the want of success of the present master in a town well suited for a diocesan school. He also complains of the want of any inspection or visitation, and the want of any adequate control exercised over the teachers. Ibid. p. 9.

Mr. Pennefather, in connexion with the Downpatrick school, remarks upon the need of an assistant master, and the want of any provision for superannuating the head master. He also points out that, as the presentment for repairs is not compulsory on the Grand Jury, the power of putting an end to the benefit of the school is placed in their hands. Ibid. p. 13.

Dr. Ferguson observes that diocesan schools are practically without any species of supervision. Ibid. p. 19.

It appears that out of twenty diocesan or district schools, there were at the time of our Assistant Commissioners' inspection seven not in operation; only eight had houses suitable for the purpose; as to only six of them did we receive favourable reports of the state of instruction. Against four we have received public complaints as to their management; three are, in fact, private schools for the benefit of the masters. No less than five of the nine masters examined before us denied the existence of any right to the admission of free pupils; although this right had been, so recently as 1830, explained by the Commissioners of Education to all the masters under their control, in a general circular, and publicly announced by them in their annual report laid before Parliament in 1831. The number of vacant schools is now five, of four of which the patronage is vested in the Lord Lieutenant. Ev. 21215.

The Grand Juries of eight counties have either neglected, or refused, to make presentments for the building or repairs of the schoolhouses; but in five counties liberal sums of money have been granted by Grand Juries for the erection of schoolhouses within the last thirty years; and in two other counties recent presentments have been made for repairs. In one county the money presented for the building was, in 1830, re-presented for the general purposes of the county, in consequence of the Lord Lieutenant not having appointed a master. One of the remaining counties has been provided with a schoolhouse for many years. Under existing arrangements, there are no sites for diocesan schools within the bounds of sixteen counties.

We have shown that no effort was made to raise the salaries from the reign of Queen Elizabeth until 1824, and that the masterships of nearly one-third of the schools in the patronage of the Lord Lieutenant, were at all times left vacant; that whilst inquiries have been instituted, at various periods, into the state of these schools, and whilst legislative measures designed to promote the successful working of the system have been passed; yet, the suggestions and applications of the Commissioners of Education, and many of the recommendations of the various Commissions and Committees of the House of Commons, were not adopted.

The Commissioners of Education neglected these schools from 1813, when they were appointed, until their attention was called to them in 1820 by the Executive Government. In 1823 they devised a general plan for their management; from year to year they urged on the Grand Juries the building of schoolhouses, and on the Lord Lieutenant the necessity of appointing masters to the various vacant schools; and they apprized the masters and the public of the constitution of these schools, both as to the right of free admission and as to their being open to persons of all religious persuasions. Since 1833, it does not appear that they have taken any step to check the increasing decay and inefficiency of these institutions.

The failure of these schools may be ascribed in a great measure to the divided responsibility which was cast upon various parties, each of whom was only partially invested with the power required to secure their government and support; and this defect was not corrected by the formation of the permanent Board of Commissioners in 1813.

Another inherent defect in their constitution interfered with the prosperity of

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these schools. The right of all persons resident in the district to provide for their children a classical education free of expense, by admission to these schools, not being conceded by the masters, it was reduced to a perfect nullity, or else the admission of free pupils became a matter of patronage in the master's hands.

We are of opinion that the diocesan schools are, by their constitution, essen-

ENDOWMEN

Locality of School.	Endowment. Dioceses, and Amount of Provision for Master appointed by Warrant of Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council.	£ s. d.	Acreage. A. R. P.	Estimated Annual Value of School Premises. £ s. d.	Net Annual Income. From Land. £ s. d.	Net Annual Income. From Trus Funds. £ s.
LEINSTER:						
Carlow, *Carlow.*	Ossory,	64 12 4	Site.	30 0 0	110 15 5	—
	Leighlin,	46 3 1				
Kildare, *Naas.*	Kildare,	64 12 4	Site.	32 12 0	64 12 4	—
Westmeath, *Mullingar.*	Meath,	78 9 3	—	—	120 0 0	12 9
	Ardagh,	41 10 9				
Wexford, *Wexford.*	Ferns,	64 12 3	1 0 0	44 18 7	64 12 3	—
Wicklow, *Wicklow.*	Dublin,	50 15 5	—	—	92 6 2	—
	Glandalagh,	41 10 9				
MUNSTER:						
Cork, *Cork.*	Cork,	73 16 11	—	—	73 16 11	—
Cork, *Mallow.*	Cloyne,	92 6 2	1 0 0	1 0 0	92 6 2	—
Cork, *Rosscarbery.*	Ross,	27 13 10	—	—	27 13 10	—
Limerick, *Limerick.*	Limerick,	69 4 7	1 2 19	62 3 8	138 9 2	—
	Killaloe,	50 15 4				
	Kilfenora,	18 9 3				
ULSTER:						
Antrim, *Ballymena.*	Armagh,	64 12 4	1 0 0	28 13 10	110 15 5	—
	Connor,	46 3 1				
Down, *Downpatrick.*	Down,	36 18 5	0 3 9	28 10 0	‡87 5 6	—
	Dromore,	46 3 1	1 2 19			
Londonderry, *Londonderry.*	Derry,	92 6 2	3 2 0	377 3 10	92 6 2	—
Monaghan, *Monaghan.*	Kilmore,	41 10 9	3 0 38	48 4 9	120 0 0	—
	Raphoe,	27 13 10				
	Clogher,	50 15 5				
CONNAUGHT:						
Galway, *Tuam.*	Tuam,	**70 0 0	—	—	120 0 0	16 15
	Killala,	35 0 0				
	Achonry,	15 0 0				
Roscommon, *Elphin.*	Elphin,	73 16 11	—	—	73 16 11	—
	Total,	£1,384 12 3	13 3 5	653 6 8	‡1,388 16 3	29 4

* 5 Friends; 5 Wesleyan Methodists. † No regular register. ‡ Including £4 4*s.* from land.
¶ The high salary of the Derry Diocesan schoolmaster, arises from an endowment made by the Hon. the Irish Society in consideration of eighteen pupils being admi

ENDOWMENTS I

Locality of School.	Endowment. Dioceses, and Amount of Provision for Master appointed by Warrant of Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council.	£ s. d.	Acreage. A. R. P.	Estimated Annual Value of School Premises. £ s. d.	Annual Income. From Land. £ s. d.	Annual Income. From Tru Funds. £ s.
MUNSTER:						
Kerry, *Tralee.*	Ardfert and Aghadoe,	73 16 11	—	—	73 16 11	—
Tipperary, *Thurles.*	Cashel,	64 12 4	—	—	92 6 2	—
	Emly,	27 13 10				
Waterford, *Dungarvan.*	Waterford,	18 9 2	—	—	83 1 6	—
	Lismore,	64 12 4				
CONNAUGHT:						
Galway, *Loughrea.*	Clonfert,	23 1 6	—	—	36 18 5	—
	Kilmacduagh,	13 16 11				
	Total,	286 3 0	—	—	286 3 0	—

tially non-exclusive; they are not intended for pupils of any religious persuasion in particular, and the master has no power to compel all the pupils to receive religious instruction in his own tenets. We recommend, therefore, that these schools should be placed under the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOLS.

Vide p. 245 *infra*.

ERATION.

Master.			School.		Pupils.									
					Number.		Religion.				Annual Charges.			
Appointment.	Annual Salary.	By whom paid.	No. of Pupils School-room suited for.	No. of Pupils Dormitories suited for.	Average during current year.	On Roll.	United Church.	Roman Catholic.	Presbyterian.	Others.	Boarders.	Day Scholars.	Free Pupils on roll.	State of Instruction.
	£ s. d.													
rd Lieutenant.	110 0 0	By Bishops or Ecclesiastical Commissioners and Clergy. To Londonderry School the Irish Society pay in addition £280 towards expenditure, and £150 for Exhibitions.	22	–	8	8	8	–	–	–	–	£4 4s. to £6 6s.	–	Unsatisfactory.
chbishop of Dublin as op of Kildare.	60 0 0		52	16	12	13	13	–	–	–	–	Same.	–	Satisfactory.
hop of Meath and Lord tenant alternately.	132 9 5		45	–	2	3	2	1	–	–	–	£4 4s.	1	Very unsatisfactory.
rd Lieutenant.	64 12 3		57	34	47	49	43	6	–	–	£30	£1 14s.	3	Satisfactory.
chbishop of Dublin. *Report*, p. 42.	92 6 2		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Mastership vacant from 1834 until Sept. 1857. Mastership again vacant. *Vide Report*, p. 42.
rd Lieutenant.	73 16 11		56	–	47	53	39	1	3	10*	–	£8 8s. to £10 10s.	8	Satisfactory.
	92 6 2		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Mastership vacant from 1850 until Sept. 1857.
	30 0 0		47	25	20	27	18	9	–	–	£30 to £33	£7 7s.	1	Satisfactory.
	138 9 2		70	32	†–	5	5	–	–	–	£37 16s.	£6 6s.	–	Very unsatisfactory.
rd Primate and Lord tenant alternately.	120 0 0		36	4	20	25	21	–	4	–	£47 5s.	£6 6s. to £8 8s.	3	Satisfactory.
rd Lieutenant.	100 8 11		36	6	18	23	8	3	§10	‖2	–	£2 to £4	1	Not satisfactory.
hop of Derry, with apal of Lord Lieutenant.	¶330 0 0		110	45	50	51	46	–	5	–	£38	£8 8s.	18	Satisfactory.
rd Lieutenant.	120 0 0		50	9	16	17	12	5	–	–	–	£1 to £2	7	Very unsatisfactory.
	136 15 4		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Mastership vacant at time of inspection. Master of New District School appointed October, 1857.
	73 16 11		29	12	†–	30	17	13	–	–	£30 to £36.	£4	–	Unsatisfactory.
			610	183	240	304	232	38	22	12			25	

§ Including Non-subscribing Presbyterians.
he eighteen free pupils are consequently not on the Diocesan foundation.

‖ Methodists.
** Endowment for Killala and Achonry united to Tuam, October, 1857; sums payable, English currency.

ERATION.

Appointment of Master.	Schoolhouse.	Cause of discontinuance or non-establishment of School.	Remarks.
ord Lieutenant.	None.	No appointment of Master for Ardfert since some years before 1824. No appointment ever made for Aghadoe, nor for the United Schools since their union in 1824.	Endowment not paid.
.	None.	No appointment in Cashel since 1813. No appointment ever made to Emly, nor to the United Schools since their union in 1824.	Same.
.	None.	It does not appear that any appointment of Master was ever made.	Same.
.	None.	Same.	Same.

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The right of free admission, being unlimited, has been practically nullified. We recommend that a minimum number of free places should be fixed, with power for the Commissioners of Endowed Schools, on the appointment of any new master, to increase the number; that some of the free places should be open under the regulations of the Commissioners to children whose domestic circumstances are very limited; that not less than half the free places should be awarded by examination amongst the sons of inhabitants of the district to which the school belongs, and in default of such candidates, to other boys; that free places should be held only upon condition of good conduct and progress in the school; and that the entire regulations respecting the free places should be confided to the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

These Commissioners ought to have power to remove masters for inefficiency as well as misconduct; and provision ought to be made for the retirement of masters becoming inefficient from old age.

The practice now generally adopted, of appointing clergymen of the United Church as masters, appears to us to interfere with the success of the schools as non-exclusive endowments. In the two schools in which we found laymen acting as masters, there was a good attendance of pupils of different religious persuasions, and the state of instruction was satisfactory.

We have already recommended, that where the Grand Juries build the schoolhouses, the presentment for repairs should be imperative. We are of opinion, that the execution of the repairs should be entrusted to the Commissioners of Public Works, and that the sum expended and certified by them, should be applotted over the entire district to which the school belongs, even though extending into different counties.

We have recommended visitations of the Monaghan and the Mullingar diocesan schools for the purpose of determining whether the office of master ought to be vacated.

We have recommended that the endowment of Loughrea diocesan school should be united with that of Elphin; and that the endowments for the dioceses of Cashel and Emly should be united with those for Waterford and Lismore, for a school at Waterford.

We have also recommended, that immediate appointments should be made by the Lord Lieutenant, to the school at Tralee and the proposed school at Waterford.

The present mode of paying the diocesan schoolmasters has been made the subject of many complaints. We therefore recommend that the collection of the sums payable by the clergy should be undertaken by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. We are also of opinion, that the sums applotted should be collected in the case of the school being vacant, and should, as in the case of other vacant endowments, be allowed to accumulate for the benefit of the foundation.

We are of opinion, that the diocesan schools should be subjected to a system of inspection under the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools, and that the Board should have power to direct the course of instruction, and the number of assistant masters to be employed.

We are of opinion, that the vesting of the patronage, inspection, and government of these schools in the same Board, would contribute in a great degree to their efficiency.

We would therefore recommend that the patronage of the diocesan schools, now vested in the Lord Lieutenant, should be transferred to the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools. This arrangement would not interfere with the patronage of such diocesan schools as are vested in the Archbishop of Armagh, the Archbishop of Dublin, and the Bishop of Meath, respectively.

ROYAL FREE SCHOOLS.

ROYAL FREE SCHOOLS.

The Royal Free Schools, as already noticed, were endowed by King James I. and King Charles I. 1608.

Vide p. 7, *supra*.

The endowments are nine in number, of which seven are in operation, and six are grammar schools. The grammar schools are those at Armagh, Banagher, Cavan, Dungannon, Enniskillen, and Raphoe; the school at Carysfort is an English school. The endowments not in operation are those at Clogher and Londonderry.

As already stated, King James, in 1608 made an order in the Privy Council, that in the counties of Armagh, Tyrone, Londonderry, Fermanagh, Donegal, and Cavan, there should be appointed one free school at least for the education of youth in learning and religion; and on 21st of July, 1609, a commission was issued to the Lord Deputy and others, instructing them, among other things, that the parcels of land allotted to the free schools in the several counties should be set out by mears and bounds, to the end that they may be passed as grants from the Crown. On the 30th of January, 1612, the King wrote to the Lord Deputy, directing that the lands which had been assigned for the endowment of free schools, and with the stating and improving of which for such purpose the Archbishops and Bishops within whose several dioceses the said lands had been allotted had been specially entrusted, should be conveyed for the use of the schoolmasters, to the several Bishops of the respective dioceses where they were to be established. It was also directed that said several Bishops should nominate the masters to be appointed by the King, and should have power to lease the lands for twenty-one years. On the 21st April, 1614, the King again writes to the Lord Deputy, directing him to convey the lands to the Archbishop of Armagh, to be by him distributed to the several schools, on account of his ecclesiastical jurisdiction in the province, and his ability in consequence to select the most apt places for the schools, and allot suitable proportions of land to each. Immediately following the above letter, comes a charter of King James, dated 13th May, 1614, establishing the perpetual Free School of Dungannon, the schoolmaster thereof "to be at the nomination of the Lord Archbishop of Armagh, for the time being, and appointed and placed by us, our heirs and successors," and constituting John Bollingbroke master, and granting him the lands attaching to the office, free of rent, during commorancie and good behaviour.

1608. 1612. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 337. 1614. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 338. 1614. Dungannon.

The next document in order of time, appears to be a letter from the King to the Lord Deputy, dated 1st August, 1618. This recites the letter of the 21st April, 1614, stating that as he is informed it has not taken the effect which he wished it might, "and albeit as we are advertised the said Archbishop hath appointed certain schoolmasters for the several schools, and that there are incumbents in the several churches within the said province, yet, by reason, said lands are not accordingly conveyed for their maintenance as we intended, the same lands are daily diminished, and the schoolhouses not builded, to the hindrance of education, &c." He then orders that all said lands intended as maintenance for the schools, be granted to the Archbishop of Armagh, upon trust to convey same to the several masters and ushers of said schools, erected or to be erected, and "to such persons of quality and their successors, as the said Archbishop shall, under his handwriting, nominate, being first incorporated and enabled by letters patent under the great seal, by advice of some of our learned council, there to purchase lands and hereditaments to the value of fifty pounds by the year, to them and their successors, for the maintenance of the said schools, which said schoolmasters and ushers successively, our pleasure is, shall be from time to time nominated and appointed by the said Archbishop during his life, and after his decease by the Bishops of the several dioceses within the said province respectively."

1618. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 339.

By letters patent, dated 3rd September, 1618, King James appointed Geoffrey Middleton master of the Enniskillen school. By letters patent, dated 12th February, 1620–1, King James appointed John Sterne master of the Cavan school; and again by letters patent, dated 13th November, 1623, he appointed Nicholas Higginson to the same office.

1618. 1620–1. 1623.

By charter, dated 15th December, 1627, King Charles I. granted to the Archbishop of Armagh, the several school lands in the counties of Armagh, Tyrone, Donegal, Fermanagh, and Cavan, to hold to the sole use of the masters of the free schools in those counties respectively. The charter assigns as a reason for conveying the lands in trust to the Archbishop, the fact that the masters of the

1627. Armagh. Dungannon. Raphoe. Enniskillen. Cavan.

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free schools were persons unable by law to acquire, enjoy, or possess lands, &c., or the use of lands, &c., for ever in succession. The charter contains no provisions as to the patronage of the schools.

1629. Carysfort. Banagher. 1632. Clogher.

By charters, dated 23rd August, 1629, 16th September, 1629, and 24th of July, 1632, King Charles I. founded the Royal Schools of Carysfort, Banagher, and Clogher, respectively.

1660–61. Cavan.

The next document that we have been able to discover bears date 22nd February, 1660–1, being the letters patent of King Charles II. appointing John Newcomen to the public mastership of the public and free school of Cavan, and the emoluments and lands thereunto appertaining, with the advice and consent of the Lord Chancellor and Lords Justices of Ireland. The letters recite that the mastership was vacant, and that the right of appointment "lawfully belongs to our collation, disposition, and donation."

1661. Enniskillen.

In the same year we have the appointment by letters patent from King Charles II., dated 15th July, 1661, of Thomas Dunbar to the public mastership of the free school of Enniskillen, with the emoluments thereof, with the assent and consent of the Lord Chancellor and Lords Justices of Ireland. The letters recite that the "office of schoolmaster of the free school of Fermanagh is vacant, and in our gift," and further, with the assent aforesaid, grant to said Thomas Dunbar, and his assigns, during pleasure, the custody of all the lands conveyed and appointed for a Royal free school in said county, by King James I., to hold the custody of said lands, and enjoy the office in as ample a manner as Geoffrey Middleton, or Richard Bourke, or any previous masters exercised same, provided that if said Thomas Dunbar accept any benefice or ecclesiastical preferment, then the grant of the office and custody of the lands shall be void.

1663. Raphoe.

Following the above is the appointment by letters patent from King Charles II., dated 26th May, 1663, of Robert M'Cleland to the public mastership of the public and free school of county of Donegal, with the emoluments and lands thereto appertaining, with the advice and consent of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The letters recite that the mastership was vacant, and "lawfully belongs to our collation, donation, and disposition."

The next documents, in order of time, bearing on the question of the patronage of the Royal schools, have been furnished to us from the Armagh Diocesan Registry.

1682. Dungannon.

Under date of 27th July, 1682, Michael, Archbishop of Armagh, confers on John Fletcher the mastership of the Free School of Dungannon, of royal foundation, with all the privileges and emoluments thereto belonging, in as ample a manner as any other schoolmaster had previously enjoyed same; and, moreover, grants him full licence and power to exercise said office.

1684. Armagh.

And under date of 20th January, 1684, the same Archbishop of Armagh confers on Thomas Wadman the mastership of the public and free school of Mountnorris, of which Isaac Collyer had been master, with all the emoluments and privileges thereto belonging, in as ample a manner as any other schoolmaster had previously enjoyed same; and, moreover, grants him full license and power to exercise said office.

1794. Enniskillen.

We then have the appointment, by letters patent from King George III., dated 16th December, 1794, of Rev. Joseph Stock to the mastership of the Free School of Enniskillen, with the emoluments, &c., thereto belonging, with the advice and consent of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The letters recite that the "office is now void and in our disposal by death of late master."

1811. Raphoe.

And again, by letters patent, dated 8th April, 1811, reciting that the mastership of the Free School of Raphoe was vacant by the death of the Rev. James Irwin, and "is thereby in our disposal," King George III. grants said office, with the emoluments, &c., thereto belonging, with the consent and advice of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, to Rev. John Irwin, during pleasure.

The above abstract comprises an account of the principal provisions of the several documents that we have been able to discover, affecting the question of the constitution of the Royal schools. Our search embraced the Archiepiscopal Register of Armagh; the Rolls' Office of the Court of Chancery in Ireland; the Record Office, in the Bermingham Tower, Dublin Castle; and the Irish Office in London. The Crown has always exercised the right of appointment of masters to all the Royal schools, except those of Dungannon and Armagh. The Archbishop of Armagh has appointed to Dugannon since 1682, and to Armagh since 1684, said to be the earliest appointments recorded on the Archiepiscopal Register. The first appointment to the Royal School of Armagh, that we have been able to trace, is that of 1684; but we find that on the 13th May, 1614, the King

appointed to Dungannon, the patent of appointment reciting that the right of appointment thereto was in the Crown, and at the nomination of the Archbishop of Armagh. It does not appear why the Crown, while it has the patronage of the other Royal schools, has not the patronage of the schools of Dungannon and Armagh; and this is even more remarkable in the case of the former than of the latter, for, in 1682, we find the Archbishop of Armagh appointing to a school to which the King had appointed in 1614, no explanation being offered as to how the Crown had parted with a right which it had previously not only possessed but exercised.

In the draft of a proposed report by the Commissioners of 1791, which was found among the papers of the Commissioners of Education, it is stated that the Commissioners were unable to discover by what authority the Archbishop of Armagh appointed the masters of the Armagh and Dungannon Royal Schools, and as no mention is made in their final report of the origin of the assumed right of patronage in the Archbishop, it may be inferred that, although its investigation engaged their attention, they failed to bring their inquiry to a successful termination.

We have been equally unsuccessful in discovering any foundation for the Archbishop's alleged right of appointment. The letter of 1612 contemplated that the right of appointing the masters of the Royal schools should be reserved to the Crown. The nomination by the Bishops intended by it, is never referred to in subsequent appointments by the Crown; and it is inconsistent with the manner in which the Archbishop appoints to Armagh and Dungannon. The letter of April, 1614, intended that the Archbishop of Armagh should be entrusted with the allotment of the school lands, which, by the letter of 1612, was to have been entrusted to the several Bishops in their respective dioceses. In May, 1614, in the case of Dungannon, the Crown exercised its right of appointment. Four years later, however, we have a letter which recites the fact of appointments having been made by the Archbishop, and which intended that the nomination and appointment of masters should be given to the Archbishop during his life, and afterwards to the Bishops in their several dioceses. The lands were to be conveyed to the Archbishop in trust, to convey them to the several masters, and ushers, and such persons of quality as the Archbishop should, in writing, nominate, who should first have been incorporated and enabled by letters patent to purchase lands and hereditaments to the value of fifty pounds a-year, to them and their successors for the maintenance of the schools. This letter appears never to have been acted upon or acknowledged. We have no record of any such corporations as those referred to ever having been erected. The letter is inconsistent with that of 1612, with the letters patent of 1614, and with the immediately subsequent exercise of the right of appointment by the Crown in 1618, 1620–1, and 1623; and we have no instance of any Bishop having ever appointed to the schools of Cavan, Enniskillen, or Raphoe.

The Charter of Charles I., while it makes no mention whatsoever of the right of appointment, treats the five schools in every respect alike, in a manner somewhat remarkable on the assumption that two of them differed from the rest in so essential a particular as that of the right to their patronage.

In 1660–1, 1661, and 1663, we again find the Crown appointing to Cavan, Enniskillen, and Raphoe; the patents, in each case, reciting that the right of appointment is in the Crown.

In 1682 the Archbishop appoints to the "Free School of Dungannon, of Royal foundation," being the earliest appointment to this school that can be discovered after King James's appointment in 1614; and in almost the same words, he appoints to Armagh, in 1684.

In 1794, and again in 1811, King George III. appoints in the former year to Enniskillen, and in the latter to Raphoe, the patents in each case reciting that the appointment is in the Crown.

It is no doubt possible that documents have eluded our search, which may by their discovery elucidate what is at present inexplicable and anomalous. We have, however, been unable to discover any documentary evidence regulating the patronage of the Royal Schools of Armagh, Cavan, Dungannon, Enniskillen, and Raphoe.

The constant exercise by the Crown of the right of patronage as to Cavan, Enniskillen, and Raphoe, in the absence of such evidence, leaves the patronage of these schools in the Crown, but in the case of Armagh and Dungannon, dis-

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tinct evidence of the Crown having parted with its patronage, is required to sustain further appointments to them by the Archbishop of Armagh.

1662. 14 & 15 Chas. II. c. 10. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 347.

The first Act of Parliament relating to the Royal schools was passed in the reign of Charles II. With regard to it the Commissioners of 1791 state:—"We observe that by an Act now in force, namely, the Act of 14th and 15th of Chas. II. power is given to the Chief Governor for the time being, with the assent of six or more of the Privy Council, and with the advice and approbation of the Archbishop and Bishop of the province, and Bishop of the diocese, to divide the possessions of any one of the free schools which are the foundation of his Majesty, or of his Royal progenitors, into two or more, where they shall find cause." Power is also given by the same Act to change the sites of the schools whenever it may be deemed advisable; and it was probably under this provision that the Royal Schools of Mountnorris, Mountjoy, and Donegal, were removed to Armagh, Dungannon, and Raphoe, the new sites being in the same counties and dioceses respectively as the original ones. The power of dividing the endowment, and applying it to several towns, seems never to have been exercised, although occasions for a resort to it would appear to have arisen. Thus, Omagh, the county town of Tyrone, a place of no less importance than Dungannon, is left without a classical school, as appeared by the evidence before us. There has long been a want of a classical endowed school at Newry, which is partly situate in the county of Armagh, and the Commissioners of 1827 recommended that the diocesan school should be placed there.

Ev. 11452.

1695. 7th Wm. III. c. 4.

In the Act of William III., which noticed the inefficient state of diocesan schools, the omission of any allusion to the Royal Free Schools affords presumptive evidence that they were not in an equally unsatisfactory condition at that time.

1725. 12th Geo. I. c. 9. s. 6. 1727. 1st Geo. II. c. 15. 1771–72. 11 & 12 Geo. III. c. 17.

An Act relating to the Royal Free Schools in the time of George I., recites the unimproved condition of the school estates, owing to the uncertainty of the tenure by which the tenants held; and provides, that leases may be granted in trust for the masters by the Archbishop of Armagh, for terms not exceeding twenty-one years. This was followed by the Act of George II. which, after reciting the want of good schoolhouses attached to the Royal endowments, enacts that the master may charge the endowment to the extent of one and a-half years' income for money laid out by him in repairs and buildings. It was afterwards provided by an Act of Geo. III., that fines might be taken on the making and renewal of the trust leases, to be expended on repairs or building of the schoolhouses, the rent reserved on the trust leases, however, not in any case to fall short of three-fourths of the true value of the lands.

These acts did not fundamentally alter the arrangements with regard to the estates being left in the hands of the master or his family, and subject consequently to the evils incident to temporary ownership; and accordingly the Commissioners of 1791 animadvert upon the lease of the Dungannon school estate. They observe that the transaction appeared to them "unfair on the part of the schoolmaster, calculated to acquire a property in the school lands for his representatives, in prejudice to the charity. The valuation was a suspicious, and in the event appears to have been, a fraudulent transaction, by which the fine was lessened, which should have been £2,114 10*s.* 11*d.*, instead of £1,235; and the further consequence was, transferring to the representatives of the present master a greater annual sum than his successor (who was to do the duty) was to receive." And they could "not help taking notice that if the master had paid a proper fine, estimated according to the rent which ought to have been reserved, the school lands would have been exonerated from the expenditure hereinafter mentioned in building the schoolhouse."

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 346.

1st Geo. II. c. 15. 11 & 12 Geo. III. c. 17.

Under the Acts of George II. and George III., schoolhouses were built for four of the schools between 1734 and 1791. The school that was not provided with a house was that of Cavan; but the cause of the Acts having failed in this case appears from the account given by the Commissioners of 1791 of the dealings in the patronage of this school from the year 1755. "The Rev. James Cottingham, D.D., was appointed by the King's letters patent, in the year 1755, to be master of this free school, in the room of the Rev. James Moore, to whom Dr. Cottingham gave £2,000 for his resignation, with the knowledge, as he stated to us, of Primate Stone, then a Lord Justice. Dr. Cottingham let the lands to a friend in trust for himself, reserving £90 yearly to the schoolmaster for the time being, and sold the school to the Rev. Mark Kerr, who was appointed by patent to succeed him, for £500. Kerr

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 347.

resigned in favour of White, his usher, for £1,000. White died in four years, and Dr. Cottingham procured himself to be again appointed schoolmaster, merely, as he acknowledged, from an apprehension that the lease above-mentioned, which he had made to the prejudice of the charity, might be broken, if any other person should be appointed schoolmaster, and with an avowed intention of not keeping the school himself. This traffic in great charitable foundations, which might be rendered so highly useful to the community, is too shameful to need any comment."

As to the other Royal schools, the Commissioners stated that the master at Banagher school had not a single scholar, though he held his appointment during his Majesty's pleasure from 1777 to the time of their report. The master of Carysfort, who held his appointment during good behaviour, from 1784, had never kept a school or performed any of the duties of a schoolmaster, nor did he even reside in the town. He paid an obscure man £10 yearly, who had whatever profits arose from the school. In Raphoe school the master had done no duty for three years antecedent to 1788. The Commissioners recommended that proceedings should be taken by his Majesty's Attorney-General against the masters of these three schools, unless his Excellency should remove those of them, the tenure of whose appointments was during the pleasure of the Crown. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 347. Ibid. p. 364.

The Commissioners reported that the Armagh Royal School was the only one then in a satisfactory state. They were of opinion that large salaries to schoolmasters were generally ruinous to schools; and that the salaries attached to the Royal Schools should not in future exceed £100 a-year. Ibid. pp. 345, 365.

As to the constitution of the schools with regard to free pupils, they found that of the six schools that had pupils, in two, there were none free; in two, only five each; and in the remaining schools, twelve and sixteen respectively; thus making in all thirty-eight free pupils out of two hundred and eleven. The Commissioners made a recommendation that the master should be obliged to receive a certain number of day scholars gratuitously, not exceeding twenty in each school, which would give in the seven free schools, 140 free pupils, instead of thirty-eight, the then actual number. They concluded by stating that the schools on Royal foundation had not answered the intentions of the founders, and that the benefits derived from them had been "totally inadequate to the expectations that might have been justly formed from their large endowments; those schools being free schools, and the number of free scholars only thirty-eight, each boy (and they are only day scholars) costs the public annually above £100." Ibid. p. 369. Ibid. pp. 347, 365. Ibid. p. 364.

The report also contained a passage bearing on the constitution of the Royal Schools, the Commissioners stating it as their "decided opinion that there should be no distinction made in any of the schools between scholars of different religious persuasions, without meaning, however, to interfere with the peculiar constitution of the charter schools, or with the intentions of the founders of any other schools, expressed by their wills or other instruments directing such foundations." They also recommended that the Royal Schools, amongst others, should be placed under a board of control, which they proposed to establish. Ibid.

The Report of 1791 was not published, and it does not appear that its recommendations were acted upon. The objectionable trust lease of the Dungannon school estate was frequently renewed on terms disadvantageous to the endowment, and profitable to the master and his representatives; and the last renewal did not expire until 1832. Several other of the Royal Schools exhibited, many years after 1791, a continuance of the abuses so strongly pointed out in the Report of that year.

When the Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry made their First Report in 1807, it appeared that though several of the schools had become much more efficient since 1791, yet the other schools remained in an unsatisfactory condition. No proceedings were taken against the master of the Cavan school, as recommended in the Report of 1791; and the Commissioners of 1807 report, that there had been no efficient schoolmaster there since the death of Mr. Arbuthnot, an usher, who died in 1803; and that the master's age and infirmities had rendered him incapable of attending to the duties of his school for several years before his death. There had been no school at Banagher in 1791; and no school existed there when the Commissioners of 1807 commenced their proceedings. It also appeared that nearly seventy-seven acres had been lost to the endowment by the encroachments of neighbouring proprietors, and the negligence of former masters,

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proving the impolicy of leaving the lands in the temporary ownership and occupation of successive masters. As to Carysfort school, notwithstanding the abuse commented on in 1791, of the masters being non-resident, and the prosecution recommended against him, the Government, in 1806, appointed the Rev. Sir Thomas Foster, Bart., to this small English school, whilst he had two church livings, and neither attended to the duties of the school in person, nor resided in Carysfort. The Commissioners of 1807–12 observe, with reference to these abuses: "We trust that no instance will occur in future, of any persons being appointed to be masters of public schools, or being suffered to continue to hold those situations, unless they reside and discharge the duties thereof in person."

Com. Educ. 1st Rep. 1807, p. 9.

The schools of Armagh, Dungannon, Enniskillen, and Raphoe, improved during the interval from 1791 to 1807—the first especially. The school of Armagh, which was the only one in a satisfactory condition in 1791, and which improved most from that period until the time of the report of 1807, was under the patronage of the Archbishop of Armagh. Dungannon school, which had also improved, was in the same patronage; whilst those Royal schools, which were in the most unsatisfactory state at both periods, were under the patronage of the Lord Lieutenant.

The Commissioners of 1807 recommended that the emoluments of the masters of the schools should be reduced, and that after providing for the endowment of assistant-masterships, a great part of the remainder should be employed in the maintenance of free scholars on the foundation, agreeably to the original intention of the establishment of these institutions, which are expressly denominated free schools.

Ibid. 14th Rep. 1812, p. 328.

The Commissioners, in their concluding Report, describe, generally, the condition of the Royal schools, by stating that their united endowments amounted to £5,800 per annum, and that the number of scholars taught in them at the time of making their report amounted to about 360; but of these very few were instructed *gratis*, there being then, they considered, "a general reluctance to accept of such a favour." With reference to the concluding observations, we may state, that the evidence brought before us on the subject of free places related chiefly to the reluctance of the masters to concede any right of free admission, and not of individuals to avail themselves of it. And we believe, that if free places were held up to honourable competition, as the reward of superior merit, to be claimed as a right and not accepted as a favour, no such reluctance would exist with regard to them.

1813.

The suggestions of the Commissioners of 1791 were carried out by the appointment of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, in whom the estates, with powers of leasing, were vested; and they were empowered to fix the salaries of the masters, and apply the surplus to the school buildings, and to the foundation of free scholarships and exhibitions. The management of these schools has constituted the chief part of the business of the Board up to the present time.

On their appointment the Board became entitled to enter upon the possession and management of the school estates, except where trust leases were still subsisting. In the case of the Armagh and Dungannon school estates, this provision prevented them from entering into possession until about the year 1832. We received a good deal of evidence, especially at Cavan and Enniskillen, as to the bad condition of these estates under the local agent appointed by the Board. We referred the matter to the Inspector of the School Estates appointed by the Lord Lieutenant, and the subject is treated of in his reports, and in our report on the Inspection of Estates.

Appendix, pp. 25, 27.
Vide pp. 234–7, 242, *infra*.

With regard to the admission of free scholars, the Board seem to have always required returns from the masters, as to the number of their free pupils, thereby implying an obligation on the part of the masters to receive free pupils; but, except in the case of Armagh, they seem to have left the number to be admitted entirely optional with the master.

Ev. 21209.

The rules of the Commissioners of Education, made in 1848, fix ten as the number of free pupils to be received in the Armagh school. Notwithstanding these rules, in a return made by the Commissioners of Education pursuant to an order of the House of Commons in 1854, the answer to the question—"By whom are free scholars selected," is, "By the masters," without any intimation that the selection is subject to the control of the Board or others.

Ev. 21208.

Parl. Pap. No. 289. Ev. 9364.

In Enniskillen alone, have school scholarships, as distinguished from free places, been founded; and this did not take place until the year 1831, when a

Ev. 21228, 11892.

limited number of scholars were placed on the foundation, and allowed £20 each towards education, maintenance, and clothing. It appears by a return made in 1850, that the expenditure for these scholarships for the five years preceding averaged £76 13*s.* 4*d.* yearly.

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Parl. Pap. 1850, No. 453.

The delay in obtaining possession of the school estates, and full control over their funds, arising from the existence of trust leases and special agreements with masters, prevented the earlier foundation of scholarships at Enniskillen, or of exhibitions in connexion with several of the Royal schools, the surplus funds out of which they could be supported not being in the first instance available.

In 1822 the Commissioners were empowered by an Act of George the Fourth to apply the surplus funds of any one of the Royal schools to the improvement and maintenance of the others, in priority to any application of them for the support of scholarships and exhibitions. They exercised this power by appointing a salary to the master of the Banagher school in 1834, out of the surplus rents of the Armagh, Dungannon, and Enniskillen school estates, and by building a school-house at Cavan, part of the cost of which they made good in 1829, out of the funds of the estate of Enniskillen.

1822.

3 Geo. IV. c. 79.

Ev. 5273.

Ev. 7834.

The Commissioners first exercised their power of establishing exhibitions in Trinity College, in connexion with Armagh school in 1828, and in 1834 they founded those that now exist in the three Royal schools of Armagh, Dungannon, and Enniskillen. The Commissioners proposed at first to make them open to candidates from all these three schools indiscriminately, but they found that the statute empowering them to create the endowments compelled them to limit the exhibitions belonging to each school to candidates who had been educated in it.

1828.

Ev. 9343.

Ev. 9348.

The constitution of the Royal schools formed part of the subject of inquiry of the Committee of the House of Commons on Foundation Schools in 1835, and the Committee examined witnesses as to the possibility of these schools forming part of a general system of intermediate education.

Dr. Kyle, the secretary to the Commissioners, in his evidence before the Committee, says:—"I am not aware of any religious qualification; I believe all the masters are members of the Established Church, but I am not aware that the charter makes any distinction; I am not aware of any thing which would preclude a Roman Catholic or Presbyterian from being master of one of these schools; to my knowledge, instructions in one instance were given by the Board, that no course should be adopted which would interfere with the religious opinions of anybody; I believe Roman Catholics are in attendance in all the schools; the Board were anxious that the schools should be open to persons of all religious persuasions."

Ev. before Committee on Foundation Schools, 1835, 2190–2200.

The Committee reported that—"Though the course pursued in the instance of diocesan schools, of appointing masters from the Church of England, and generally clergymen, prevailed also in the case of the Royal schools, it does not rest on any law. The Lord Lieutenant, as in the case of the diocesan, has the appointment solely in his own hands, unshackled by any limitation of a religious exclusive character. The assistants also are usually Protestants, but chosen from the laity. The Royal schools have at all times been considered open to all religious persuasions."

Com. on Found. Schools Rep. 1838, p. 49.

The Committee made no special suggestions as to the Royal schools, except with a view to their forming part of the system of county academies, which they recommended.

The examination for the exhibitions at first consisted of the Trinity College entrance course, then purely classical, with two Greek plays added, and exercises in Latin and Greek verse; but in the year 1842, we find the history of the Old and New Testament, and "The Outlines of Sacred History," published under the superintendence of the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, in the course, and this change was referred to by Dr. Darley, as the ground of his having, when master of Dungannon school, compelled all the pupils to receive religious instruction. The Board, in 1848, made an order stating "that no course of religious instruction which would exclude persons of any religious persuasion should be compulsory on any pupil who might be desirous of attending the Royal schools." Dr. Darley, who had then been master for seventeen years, stated that he had never previously received any directions from the Commissioners as to the course he should pursue with respect to religious instruction.

Dublin University Calendar, 1843, p. 96.

Ev. 21285.

Ev. 21285.

In the preceding year, 1847, we find the book called "Outlines of Sacred History" omitted from the exhibition course. The Board retained, however,

Dublin University Calendar, 1848, p. 120.

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and still retain, "The Old and New Testament History," as part of the course; but they stated in their order of 1848, to which we have referred, that "It is a knowledge of ancient history alone, as contained in the Old and New Testament, that is required as one of the qualifications for a Royal Scholarship;" and in their annual report for 1848, presented to Parliament, they announce that the exhibitions are conferred solely as the reward of successful competition, without any religious distinction whatsoever.

ARMAGH ROYAL FREE SCHOOL, *County of Armagh.*

Vide pp. 7, 47, *supra.*

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 346.

The Armagh Royal School was founded and endowed, as already noticed, by King James I., and King Charles I. The Commissioners of 1791 refer to it as being remarkable in comparison with the other Royal schools for the efficient state in which they found it. The Commissioners of 1807 state that no school in Ireland maintained a higher reputation than that of Armagh.

Ev. 9343.

Ev. 9347.

Ev. 9350.

Ev. 9357, 9625.

In 1828 the Commissioners of Education first exercised their power of founding exhibitions in connexion with Royal Schools, by establishing three of £25 each for one year for Armagh. Owing to the existence of a trust lease until 1832, they were unable to increase the exhibitions before that year, but in 1834 they established five exhibitions of £50 each, to last for five years. In 1836 the Commissioners made a grant for founding a lending library in this school. In 1850, shortly after the appointment of the present master, the Archbishop of Armagh advanced, interest free, a sum of £3,296, for putting the buildings, especially the dormitories, in a satisfactory state, adapted to the modern system of the most improved schools. This act of liberality on the part of the Primate at once contributed in a remarkable degree to the efficiency of the school, and rendered it a model for imitation, as regards its internal arrangements.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 456, 476.

The school was inspected by our Assistant Commissioner, who reports most favourably of the proficiency of the pupils, and the state of the schoolhouse. There were fifty-six pupils on the roll, of whom only four were absent from illness. Thirty were boarders, and twenty-six, day scholars, of whom fourteen were free. He also notices the distinctions obtained by the pupils of this school in recent years at the University of Dublin, as the best test of the completeness of the course of instruction, and the efficiency with which it is taught. From the Assistant Commissioner's Report, and the result of our own visit, we consider the state of instruction to be very satisfactory.

Ev. 9361.

The fifty-six pupils on the roll all belong to the United Church, except seven, who are Presbyterians. The attendance, however, though good, is much less than the school accommodation admits of. In 1850, shortly after the appointment of the present master, there were as many as ninety-four pupils.

Ev. 9362.

Ev. 9363, 9373.

In connexion with this school, a question was raised before us by Mr. Joshua Michael Magee, as to the constitution of the Royal schools with regard to the right of admission of free pupils. Mr. Magee raised the same question in a memorial addressed to the Lord Lieutenant in 1848, and also in a correspondence about the same period with the Commissioners of Education. His memorial states that he had been peremptorily refused admission to the school as a free scholar, and that he was aware that fruitless applications for a similar purpose had frequently been made by citizens of Armagh. He produced letters from the Rev. Dr. Miller, the late master of the school, in reply to an application to him to admit a Roman Catholic as a free pupil. In these letters Dr. Miller stated that he had never heard of any free places at the Royal School of Armagh, although he had, of his own choice, gratuitously educated a few boys under peculiar circumstances, and added that he did not then find it convenient to receive another day scholar to be educated gratuitously.

Ev. 9370.

The question of admission of free pupils was in part the subject of a memorial, addressed by a number of influential inhabitants of Armagh and its vicinity, to the Lord Lieutenant in 1851, in which they mentioned a regulation of the Commissioners of Education, that the masters should receive ten day scholars free, but complained that the boys so admitted were selected by the master solely according to his will and pleasure. They applied to have the admission of free places regulated by such rules as would accord with the present state of society. This memorial was referred by the Lord Lieutenant to the Commissioners of Education, who forwarded, in reply, a letter from the Archbishop of Armagh, in which His Grace stated that from the time the school had come under the management of the Commissioners of Education, there had always been free pupils in it. Thus the

scholars would seem to have always been admitted in pursuance of the trust of the foundation, and not under the powers of the Act of 1813, as the Commissioners of Education made a return in 1851 to the effect that they had not made any order for maintaining, supporting, and providing free scholars under that Act. Ev. 9359.

His Grace also showed that the memorialists were mistaken in supposing there were no rules as to the admission of the free boys, inasmuch as the Commissioners of Education, in 1849, on the appointment of the present master (1849), had made the following regulations:—

"That there shall be educated, as free daily pupils, ten boys, children of parents residing in Armagh, and who inhabit houses rated at not less than £10 Poor-law valuation; or children of tenants on the Armagh school estate, paying not less than £20 per annum rent. Ev. 9370.

"That four such free daily pupils shall be admitted in the first year; four in the second year; and two in the third year; and that thereafter the full complement of ten shall be kept up by filling vacancies.

"That the age of the candidates shall not be under ten years, nor more than thirteen years.

"That no such daily pupils shall continue to receive a free education after the age of seventeen years.

"That the names of the candidates shall be submitted to the master, who shall examine and select such as he thinks most eligible, and likely to benefit by the course of education given in the school, and shall notify the same to the patron."

It appears, however, that no sufficient pains were taken either by the Commissioners of Education or by Mr. Guillemard, the master of the school, to make these regulations known, and hence the inhabitants might well be ignorant of their existence. Ev. 9485.

We have already noticed that these rules could not have been made in pursuance of the provision of the Act of 1813, referred to by the Board in their Returns in 1851; for that provision relates to free boarders, or to scholarships in lieu of board, and not to mere exemption from school fees. If this view be correct, it is not easy to see how the Commissioners were authorized to introduce the above limitations as to locality or property qualification.

At our public court a question was raised as to the meaning of the terms Free School, or *Libera Schola*, which are used in the charter of foundation. It appears, from the Statute of Queen Elizabeth founding the diocesan free schools, and the Statute of William III. for restraining foreign education, that the term "free" is applied to schools in a sense different from "public," as both words occur in these statutes, and in the latter the diocesan schools were called "public Latin free schools." Sir John Davies' reference to the diocesan free schools in Ireland is quoted by Johnson, in his Dictionary, to illustrate his meaning of Free School—"a school in which learning is given without pay." So far, therefore, as regards the common acceptation of the word "free," this authority may be referred to in support of the view that a free school is one where some class or number of boys have a right to education without payment, independent of the choice or discretion of the master. Ev. 9468.

A complaint was preferred by the inhabitants of Armagh, that the course of instruction was exclusively for the higher members of society, and that the mercantile and middle classes were virtually excluded; that book-keeping, practical arithmetic, natural philosophy, and other courses of instruction suited to them, were not pursued. It was urged by the Archbishop of Armagh, and by the master, Mr. Guillemard, that it was the real intention of the founder, that these schools should be classical schools for those intended for the higher professions, and not for persons intended for business. We find, however, that the masters of the other Royal schools on the same foundation carry on a combined system of mercantile and classical education. The master of Raphoe school states that he combines commercial with classical education. The master of the Dungannon school proposes special prizes should be allocated for the most distinguished answering in the mercantile department of the Royal school; he objects to what he calls the "dead language system," hitherto pursued, as injurious; and states that a combined system, uniting both classical and mercantile education, would be most advantageous for all. And the master of the Enniskillen school states that he has made arrangements for giving a good English education at reduced charges to those who do not desire instruction in classics. Ev. 9368. Ev. 9370–71. Ev. 11278. Ev. 11821. Ev. 11975.

Any plan of education that would prevent the Royal schools from affording a

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complete course, such as would qualify boys for entering the University, would defeat the intention of the foundation. On the other hand, it does not appear to us that the introduction into the Armagh school of a system of middle class education, similar to that pursued at Dungannon, Raphoe, and Enniskillen, under the same Charter and the same Board, would involve a violation of the trust of the school.

We are of opinion that the restriction of the free places, by a property qualification of the parents, is objectionable, and ought to be discontinued.

As the school appears to have been intended for the benefit of the entire county, the restriction of the free places to the children of tenants on the Royal School estate, and of inhabitants of the town of Armagh, is also objectionable, and ought to be discontinued.

We recommend that the free places should be open to all, and generally awarded by competition at a public examination, some being reserved to be given away on grounds of poverty, under the regulation of the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

In the Armagh Royal School it appears to us that the pupils have a right to require a course of education suited to prepare them for the universities; but as we see no reason to believe that the foundation was intended for the sole benefit of boys proceeding to Colleges, we are also of opinion, that it ought to furnish a complete English and commercial education, suited to prepare boys of the middle class for civil and mercantile employments, even though they should refuse to receive any classical instruction.

BANAGHER ROYAL FREE SCHOOL, *King's County.*

Doc. Ev. vol ii. p. 347.

In 1788 there was no schoolhouse, and there were no pupils in Banagher, and the Commissioners of Education Inquiry of 1791 found that seventy-seven acres of the original grant had been lost to the endowment by the encroachments of neighbouring proprietors.

Ev. 5265. Ev. 5270.

The school was not in operation in 1807, though at that period, as well as in 1788, the master was in receipt of the salary. Since 1818 the Commissioners of Education have rented the present schoolhouse. As the endowment was connected with the Corporation of Banagher, it came under the notice of the Municipal Corporation Commissioners in the year 1833. They reported that they found no free scholars in the establishment, and that the master insisted he was not obliged to receive any.

Ev. 5272.

Ev. 5277.

We received a communication from the Rev. Mr. Egan, the parish priest of Cloghan, which was read in court, stating that "the school had long ceased to be a free school for the class of persons for whom it was originally intended," and that "Roman Catholics and liberal Protestants appeared unwilling to send their children there." The master, when examined before us, said that he had two free pupils, but that he was in no way bound to receive any. When, however, the extracts from the charters and other documents were read by our direction in the public court, he stated that his opinion was changed. He also stated that he had never received any instructions from the Commissioners of Education as to the admission of free pupils. He mentioned that there was no interference with the religion of the pupils, and that the pupils, all but one Roman Catholic, were Protestants. We visited the school and were much dissatisfied with the want of neatness and cleanliness in the schoolroom, and inadequate supply of school furniture. Owing to the smallness of the endowment there are no exhibitions connected with the school, and from this fact, and the poverty and small size of the town—the population of which is only 1,846—Banagher is one of the worst circumstanced among the Royal schools.

Ev. 5383–8. Ev. 5393. Ev. 5295.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 154, 161.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that the state of instruction is not satisfactory, and that the buildings are in bad repair. "The house was built many years previous to its occupation as a schoolhouse, and it had for some time been used as a military hospital. It has been standing probably some sixty years. It is repaired by the master, so far as he is permitted to do so, at the cost of the Commissioners of Education." The Commissioners of Education had full powers to provide for the repairs of the schoolhouse, but the lease terminated with the life of the Duchess of Gloucester.

Appendix, p. 30. *Vide* p. 234, *infra*.

The estates of the Banagher School have been inspected, and are noticed in connexion with the report of the Inspector, and our special report on the Inspection of Estates.

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Ev. 8070–1.
Ev. 8078–9, and 8099–100.
Ev. 7892 *et seq.*

the school efficient. No inspection or visitation has been held in compliance with the visitors' suggestions, and faults of the same kind as were then noticed by the Commissioners still exist, and produce similar results. The master still makes deductions from the salaries returned as paid his assistants; the Commissioners of Education do not inspect or visit the school, as was suggested by the visitors; the same person whose defective management formed the subject of the original visitation, is still master, and his returns suffice to show that his school is not in a satisfactory state.

Ev. 7851.

In 1844, an annual exhibition of £25 a-year, for five years, was established in Trinity College, Dublin, for the Cavan Royal School. During the ten years following only one candidate has been successful in obtaining this prize; and he did not hold it for two years, though the appointment was for five, provided he continued to deserve it. The endowment being burdened with the charge for building, the masters prospect of an increase of salary in part depended on having the funds applied rather in the discharge of the debt for building than in the support of exhibitions. In connexion with the building debt upon this endowment, it is important to notice the very unfavourable report of the Inspector as to the management of the Estates for some years past, for the loss caused thereby was the more serious in its effects in consequence of the indebted state of the endowment.

Appendix, p. 27.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 482, 493.

The school was inspected by our Assistant Commissioner, who reports very unfavourably as to the course of instruction, the proficiency of the scholars, and the general state of the school.

We consider that there is a *prima facie* case made out for a visitation being at once held by the Commissioners of Education to ascertain how far the present unsatisfactory state of the school arises from misconduct or neglect on the part of the master; and that the Commissioners should again take into consideration the facts disclosed on the last visitation.

The funds of the Enniskillen Royal School which have been applied towards the building of the Cavan schoolhouse, ought not, it appears to us, to be considered as a loan, but as having been applied by the Commissioners of Education, under the powers conferred on them by the Act of 1822; and any further debt for this schoolhouse, ought, in like manner, to be defrayed out of the funds of the other Royal Schools.

CLOGHER ENDOWMENT FOR A ROYAL FREE SCHOOL, *County of Tyrone.*

Vide p. 9, *supra.*
Ev. 11635 *et seq.*
Tables, vol. iii. p. 675.

The history of the endowment for Clogher Royal School has already been given, and the subject was noticed at our public court at Omagh. It was fully inquired into by our Assistant Commissioner. He reports:—"It appears to me, therefore, that there are very strong grounds on which to rest a claim on behalf of the existing school at Clogher to the rents of the lands mentioned in the letter of licence, at least those derived from what is now called Ratory.

"I find that, on the petition of the then bishop of the diocese, King Charles I. authorized the appropriation of 100 acres of land, designated by metes and bounds (about the identity of which there is no reasonable doubt), for the establishment of a school at or near Clogher. I find that a school has existed there for a period of time, which there is no evidence to show might not have had its commencement in the time of the said bishop, supported and maintained exclusively by the successive bishops of the diocese; who, if no actual grant was made in conformity with the letters of licence (and of this there is no certainty), gave an equivalent in an annual contribution for its support. I find that, on the abolition of the bishopric, the property of the see, including part of the lands so appropriated to the school, passed into the management and control of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners; and at the same time, the withdrawal of the support which the school had constantly received from the revenues of the see; and the school left without any sufficient means of support, and dependent in a great degree on voluntary and inadequate aid, which may be withdrawn from it at any time. All these circumstances seem to me to constitute a strong ground, if not a legal right, to claim for the existing school at Clogher, the benefit of the appropriation of land which was intended, if not actually made, for a school there.

"By sec. 27, of 4th and 5th William IV. cap. 90, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, with the consent of the Lords of the Treasury, may apply, out of any surplus or balance which may arise in any year, after making due provision

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3 Geo. IV. c. 79.

advanced, by way of loan, under the provisions of the Act of 1822, a large sum towards building the schoolhouse at Cavan; and also contributed for a time towards the payment of the master at Banagher.

Ev. 7834.

The inspector of estates has made a most unfavourable report as to the management of the estates attached to this school.

Ev. 5273.

Appendix, p. 25.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 554.

It was inspected by one of our Assistant Commissioners, who reports favourably of the school, but notices the English instruction as weak and not successful. From his report, and the result of our visit, we consider the state of instruction in classics to be very satisfactory, and the instruction in English unsatisfactory. Our Assistant Commissioner expresses his opinion that the town of Enniskillen is in need of a school more suited to the wants and pecuniary means of the inhabitants. Out of seventy pupils on the roll, there were sixty-six present; and of these twenty-five were boarders, and the rest day pupils, of whom thirteen were free.

We are of opinion that the inhabitants of Enniskillen are entitled to require that a complete course of English and commercial education should be provided for their sons in some department of the school, as a preparation for their entering upon civil and mercantile pursuits, even though they should refuse to receive the classical instruction which, if it be the primary, is not the exclusive, trust of the foundation.

Since the period of our inquiry the master of Enniskillen School resigned; and on the 23rd of June last, the Rev. William Steele, who had previously held Raphoe School, was appointed in his place. Since his appointment he has made a return to us, from which it appears that on the 31st of October there were 123 pupils in the establishment, 77 of whom were boarders, and 46 day scholars.

LONDONDERRY ENDOWMENT FOR A ROYAL FREE SCHOOL, *County of Londonderry.*

Vide p. 7, *supra.*

We have already noticed the circumstances attending the foundation of an endowment for a Royal school at Londonderry. This case was made the subject of special inquiry by our Assistant Commissioner, and the result is given in his general report. He states:—

Appendix, p. 18.

"The citizens of Londonderry allege that the Foyle College should properly be the free school appertaining to the county of Londonderry, and that the endowment intended for this school by King James I. was intercepted and appropriated to their own use by the Irish Society. The Irish Society, on the other hand, though contributing something to the support of the school, have always disclaimed that the school possessed of right any other character than that of a Diocesan Free School.

"From the lapse of time, it is, perhaps, impossible to arrive at any conclusion on this subject absolutely certain; but there are several facts which give more than a colour of probability to the allegations of the citizens of Derry."

Ib. p. 19.

"But whether or not these two townlands, Rossnagallagh and Gransha, are the identical 300 acres allotted to the free school in fulfilment of a previous obligation in that behalf, the free school of Londonderry has a strong claim against the Irish Society in this respect, and though lapse of time may have debarred all legal remedy in respect of that claim, it cannot destroy the moral and equitable claim upon the consideration of Parliament, in the event of the trust property now administered by the Irish Society being placed under other regulations."

Ev. 10770.

If the recommendation with reference to the Irish Society made by the Commissioners who inquired into the Corporation of London in 1854, elsewhere noticed by us, be adopted, the 300 acres allotted to the free school, or an equivalent for them, should, it appears to us, be set apart from the property of the Society and attached to the Foyle College, Londonderry, to be thenceforth called the Londonderry Royal Free School.

Vide p. 165–7, *infra.*

RAPHOE ROYAL FREE SCHOOL, *County of Donegal.*

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 346.

The Raphoe Royal School is noticed in the Report of 1791. For three years previous to 1788 the master had done no duty; but the school was kept by the usher, who had two boarders and eighteen day scholars, of whom five were free.

Ev. 11204.

In the Report for 1807 it is mentioned that the succeeding master, appointed in 1796, had memorialed for the expenditure of £1,200 on repairs and building, "having found the house and offices in a ruinous state, from ten years' non-residence of his predecessor;" and that he himself had "already expended £1,000 in improvements."

Ev. 11208.

In 1821 the Commissioners of Education had not the means of repairing the

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and system of education. We have also to remark the generally good condition of the schoolrooms and dormitories. The contrast they present to their state in 1788, when Armagh alone was efficient, is highly creditable to the patrons and to the Commissioners of Education. We regret that Cavan is still in an unsatisfactory condition.

The Commissioners deserve great credit for the way in which they have exercised their power of founding exhibitions in Trinity College, in connexion with the Royal schools. These exhibitions have been beneficial both to the schools and to the pupils, who have been advanced by them.

The right of admission to free places at the schools has not been placed by the Commissioners on a satisfactory footing. They have permitted the masters to deny the right of free admission, without any objection or censure. The whole number of free pupils now in the six schools is forty-seven, deriving a benefit of about £10 each or £470 in all, out of endowments of about £6,000 a-year. The Commissioners issued no circular on this subject to the masters of the Royal schools, when the question of free places was raised in 1830, by their circular to the masters of diocesan schools.

Their power of inspection was efficiently exercised in the case of Cavan School, where it was most required; but it is to be regretted that so little attention was paid by them to the judicious recommendations of their own visitors. Had this been done, the school would not have been in the state in which we found it.

With respect to repairs, whilst the well-endowed schools have houses in excellent order, we regret that those of Banagher and Raphoe should have been allowed to remain for so long a period in want of repair; and we think that the Board are responsible for not having exercised their powers of applying the funds of the wealthier Royal schools for this essential purpose, especially as this trust had statutable priority to the maintenance of exhibitions. An exercise of the same powers would have saved Cavan School from being so long in debt for the schoolhouse. From the Table which we give below, it appears that the funds which, with prudent management of the estates, might be applicable to these purposes, amount to nearly £1,992 0*s.* 9*d.* a-year.

The Commissioners ought, we think, to have laid down, at an earlier period, the rule with respect to the course of religious instruction made in 1848, and they ought to have communicated it to the schoolmasters and to the public, in such a way as to prevent any misapprehension on a point so seriously affecting the utility of these schools. From the Table which we subjoin, it appears that

ROYAL FREE

Locality of School.	Acreage.	Estimated Annual Value of School Premises.	Net Annual Income from Land.	Distribution of Net Annual Income as at present realized.				Surplus Income (if collected) for repayment of advances, for repairs, and for assistance to other Schools.
				Master's Salary.	Assistants' Salaries.	School Scholarships.	College Exhibitions.	
	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
LEINSTER:								
King's Co.; Banagher.	599 0 17 and site.	—	191 11 7	100 0 0	—	—	—	91 11 7
MUNSTER:								
None.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ULSTER:								
Armagh; Armagh.	1,514 1 31 15 0 0	255 0 0	1,265 17 9	400 0 0	150 0 0	—	250 0 0	465 17 9
Cavan; Cavan.	907 0 35 16 0 31	256 3 10	473 15 8	100 0 0	100 0 0	—	125 0 0	148 15 8
Donegal; Raphoe.	8,816 1 2 9 2 33 and site.	113 13 0	462 4 4	100 0 0	100 0 0	—	—	262 4 4
Fermanagh; Enniskillen.	5,512 2 22 53 1 20	316 15 10	1,949 10 4	500 0 0	350 0 0	80 0 0	400 0 0	619 10 4
Tyrone; Dungannon.	3,890 3 12	141 9 0	1,404 1 1	400 0 0	200 0 0	—	400 0 0	404 1 1
CONNAUGHT:								
None.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total, . .	21,334 3 3 and 2 sites.	1,083 1 8	5,747 0 9	1,600 0 0	900 0 0	80 0 0	1,175 0 0	1,992 0 9

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of 311 pupils now on the roll of the Royal schools, only nineteen are Presbyterians, only four are Protestant Dissenters of other denominations, and only three are Roman Catholics.

We are of opinion that the Royal schools are, by their constitution, essentially non-exclusive—they are not intended for pupils of only one religious persuasion, and the master has no power to compel all the pupils to receive religious instruction in his own tenets. The Royal schools, therefore, belong to the class of those which we recommend should be placed under the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools. *Vide* p. 245, *infra*.

The right of free admission, being unlimited, is practically defeated; and we recommend that a minimum number of free places should be fixed by statute, with power to the proposed Board, on the appointment of a new master, to increase the number; that the free places should be open to all without distinction of locality or religion, the greater number being awarded by competition at a public examination, but some being reserved to be given on grounds of poverty, under regulations of the Board; that free places should only be held on condition of good conduct and progress in the school; and that the power of making regulations as to the tenure of the free places, the management of the examinations, and the tests of good conduct and progress, be intrusted to the proposed Board.

The Commissioners of Endowed Schools should be authorized to remove masters for inefficiency, as well as misconduct; and provision should be made for the retirement of masters on their becoming inefficient from old age.

The Commissioners should also have the influence over the masters which patronage and the power of promotion would confer. And as the masterships of the Royal schools are open to persons of all religious persuasions, the patronage of the Royal schools, so far as it is in the Crown, should be transferred to the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

As the Queen's Colleges of Belfast, Cork, and Galway, and the Queen's University in Ireland have been established since the power of granting exhibitions out of the funds of the Royal schools was created, and as the persons receiving university education appear likely to become more numerous, we recommend that the exhibitions should be increased in number; that they should be awarded at examinations to be held under the direction of the proposed Board; and that the qualifications requisite for retaining them should extend to distinctions obtained either in Trinity College, Dublin, or any of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland. The exhibitions ought to be so regulated as to be open to pupils educated at the Royal schools without distinction.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

Pupils.											
Number.				Religion.				Annual Charges.			State of Instruction.
School-room suited for.	Dormitories suited for.	Average during current year.	On Roll.	United Church	Roman Catholic.	Presbyterian.	Others.	Boarders.	Day Pupils.	Free on Roll.	
98	25	30	31	31	–	–	–	£36	£8 8s.	1	Not satisfactory.
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	—	—	–	—
140	72	*–	56	49	–	7	–	£60	£10	14	Very satisfactory.
102	38	26	34	34	–	–	–	£20 to £34	£3 3s. to £6 6s.	2	Unsatisfactory.
50	38	50	55	45	2	8	–	£52 10s.	£10 10s.	4	Very satisfactory.
114	64	65	70	69	1	–	–	£42 to £44 2s.	£4 4s. to £8 8s.	13	Classics very satisfactory; English unsatisfactory.
147	45	56	65	57	–	4	4	£30 to £50	£4 to £10	13	Very satisfactory.
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	—	—	–	—
651	282	227	311	285	3	19	4	—	—	47	

* No regular register.

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We have already stated that pupils of the Royal schools are entitled to require that a complete course of English and commercial education should be provided for them as a preparation for civil and mercantile pursuits, even though they should refuse to receive the classical instruction which, if it be the primary, is not the exclusive trust of the foundation.

This English and commercial education should be supplied in a department of the school specially devoted to this purpose, at a charge not exceeding £6 for day scholars.

In the classical department of the school, the practical branches of a good English education, ought, we think, to be also attended to.

When the funds admit of it, school scholarships should be established, to be given away by examination under the regulations of the proposed Board.

We have already recommended that the funds of the wealthier Royal schools should, in accordance with the existing statutable powers, be applied to defray the cost of school buildings and repairs at Banagher, Cavan, and Raphoe.

We are of opinion that increased powers should be conferred on the proposed Board, to enable them to apply the funds of the wealthier schools to the foundation of exhibitions and school scholarships and other objects, for the benefit of the less wealthy schools. The Commissioners might thus place the six Royal schools, that are grammar schools, in an efficient state, and make them capable of promoting a complete system of intermediate education in the localities in which they are placed.

We have recommended that a visitation should be held at Cavan school, to ascertain how far its unsatisfactory state arises from the conduct of the master.

The Royal schools should be subject to a system of inspection under the proposed Board, and the Board should have power to direct the course of instruction, and the number of assistant-masters to be employed.

We are of opinion that the vesting of the patronage, inspection, and government of the Royal schools in the same Board, would contribute to their permanent efficiency.

ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

1669.

Charter. Com. Educ. Rep. 1810, p. 224.

Ev. 3815 *et seq.*

These schools were founded by Erasmus Smith, Esq., an alderman of the city of London, in the reign of Charles II. out of estates which he received at the time* of the settlement of Ireland. He originally intended to establish five grammar schools; but in order to secure a more liberal maintenance upon the schoolmasters, and also to make some provision for clothing poor children, and binding them as apprentices, by the charter of 1669, he founded only three schools, those at Drogheda, Galway, and Tipperary. The course of instruction was directed to be in writing and casting accounts, and as far as the pupils were capable, in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew tongues, and they were to be fitted for the University if desired. The charter provided that they should be free schools, for twenty poor children to be named by the founder or governors, dwelling within two miles of the school, and for all the children of the tenants of Erasmus Smith, without limitation. The masters were authorized to receive entrance money from every scholar except from those who were thus entitled to free admission. The constitution of the schools with regard to religious instruction, was regulated by a rule of the foundation, by which the masters were bound to catechise their scholars on each Lord's day, in the catechism of Archbishop Ussher. The masters and ushers were to be approved of by the bishop of the diocese, and were required to sign the first two canons of the United Church. An exclusive religious foundation was thus established. The masters were to be appointed by the governors and visited by them, and the governors were also empowered to make regulations for the government of the schools. The charter contained some important provisions with regard to the appropriation of any increase of the rents of the estates. The surplus was, in the first instance, to be employed in raising the number of scholars in the schools, or in increasing the allowances of those already there. The next provision was, that if the rents exceeded £300 per annum, money should be expended in beautifying the schoolhouses. The next trusts were for the payment of ushers; for the founding a Hebrew or

Lodge's Records of the Chancery Rolls.

* The Indenture, dated 1st December, 1657, made during the Protectorate, by which Erasmus Smith conveyed his estates to found five grammar schools, was discovered after the Draft Report had been adopted by the Commissioners.

other lectureship in Trinity College; for binding out poor children as apprentices under Protestant masters, and for clothing poor children in the grammar schools. Erasmus Smith survived the foundation of this endowment for upwards of twenty years, not having died until 1691. He exercised the power given to him in the charter of making laws under seal. These were not returned by the Governors to us in answer to our requisition, or brought forward or referred to by the Governors or their officers at any of our courts. After our public inquiries were completed, the Governors issued rules to the masters, founded upon them; we then applied for them, and they are annexed hereto. These laws contain specific directions as to religious instruction, and provide for the management of the schools, and the regulation of the schoolmasters, ushers, and scholars. We have already noticed the suggestions of his son, Samuel, for the foundation of a mathematical school in the city of Dublin, out of the surplus, which, however, were never carried into effect. At an early period the governors, finding a surplus in their hands, established the practice of granting exhibitions to poor scholars in Trinity College; and the surplus still increasing, they obtained a private Act of Parliament in 1723, to authorize the application of such funds to charitable purposes.

ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 390.

Vide, p. 13, *supra*.

10 Geo. I. Ev. 3823, *et seq.*

This Act ratified the application of funds to exhibitions and empowered the governors to found a lectureship in oratory and history, and another in natural and experimental philosophy in Trinity College, and also three fellowships; and a provision was made that the Erasmus Smith exhibitioners should have a preference in the election of junior fellows, next after the scholars. The Erasmus Smith exhibitioners were to receive instruction at the above lectures gratis, and to have a preference in elections for the lectureships. The governors were to erect buildings in Trinity College for the exhibitioners, who were to be exempted from the payment of the usual chamber rent either in the rooms so erected, or elsewhere in the college. The act ratified an agreement with the Governors of the Blue Coat Hospital, for the maintenance of twenty boys. A power was given by this Act of Parliament of applying the surplus funds towards some public work or use in Trinity College, or the Blue Coat Hospital, or sending poor children to school, or putting them out as apprentices.

1723.

The last trust with regard to the surplus is the one that ultimately proved to be most important of all the powers conferred, for it led to the foundation of the English schools. As the suggestion of Samuel Smith for founding a mathematical school in Dublin, was approved of by the governors in 1709, there is some reason for supposing that the execution of his plans was contemplated when this provision was introduced into the Act of 1723.

Ev. 3827.

In 1773 the school at Ennis was founded; but although the power of the governors to found new schools was limited to English schools, this has always been a grammar school.

The Commissioners of 1791, in their Report, notice the following schools as having been founded before their inquiries:—Xelva in the island of Valentia, Nenagh, Templederry, and Tarbert. The school at Nenagh being then used as a grammar school, completed the number of five grammar schools originally intended by Erasmus Smith.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 353.

The remaining three were English schools, and of them, Tarbert alone is now in operation.

The Commissioners of 1791 stated that the income of the governors had increased from the £300 a-year mentioned in the charter to upwards of £4,200 a-year, whilst their annual disbursements were only about £2,800, leaving an annual surplus exceeding £1,400. These Commissioners noticed three of the grammar schools as being at that time in a flourishing state. They described the way in which the governors had applied their surplus; and they stated their opinion that, upon the whole, the trust had been executed with fidelity to the intention of the founder, and great care bestowed in managing the affairs of the endowment.

Ib. p. 354.

The Commissioners observed that the Erasmus Smith foundation, though originating in the intentions of a private individual, might, nevertheless, from the repeated interpositions of the Legislature and the Crown, be considered as a public institution. They then proposed to apply the future surplus funds of the endowment, which they estimated at about £2,000 a-year, in founding a professional academy in Dublin, to instruct young persons in mathematical learning, and the cognate sciences: in the principles of chemical knowledge, with its application to arts and manufactures; and in natural history; to prepare soldiers, seamen, and merchants,

ROYAL FREE SCHOOLS.

We have already stated that pupils of the Royal schools are entitled to require that a complete course of English and commercial education should be provided for them as a preparation for civil and mercantile pursuits, even though they should refuse to receive the classical instruction which, if it be the primary, is not the exclusive trust of the foundation.

This English and commercial education should be supplied in a department of the school specially devoted to this purpose, at a charge not exceeding £6 for day scholars.

In the classical department of the school, the practical branches of a good English education, ought, we think, to be also attended to.

When the funds admit of it, school scholarships should be established, to be given away by examination under the regulations of the proposed Board.

We have already recommended that the funds of the wealthier Royal schools should, in accordance with the existing statutable powers, be applied to defray the cost of school buildings and repairs at Banagher, Cavan, and Raphoe.

We are of opinion that increased powers should be conferred on the proposed Board, to enable them to apply the funds of the wealthier schools to the foundation of exhibitions and school scholarships and other objects, for the benefit of the less wealthy schools. The Commissioners might thus place the six Royal schools, that are grammar schools, in an efficient state, and make them capable of promoting a complete system of intermediate education in the localities in which they are placed.

We have recommended that a visitation should be held at Cavan school, to ascertain how far its unsatisfactory state arises from the conduct of the master.

The Royal schools should be subject to a system of inspection under the proposed Board, and the Board should have power to direct the course of instruction, and the number of assistant-masters to be employed.

We are of opinion that the vesting of the patronage, inspection, and government of the Royal schools in the same Board, would contribute to their permanent efficiency.

ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

1669.

Charter.
Com. Educ. Rep. 1810, p. 224.

Ev. 3815 *et seq.*

These schools were founded by Erasmus Smith, Esq., an alderman of the city of London, in the reign of Charles II. out of estates which he received at the time* of the settlement of Ireland. He originally intended to establish five grammar schools: but in order to secure a more liberal maintenance upon the schoolmasters, and also to make some provision for clothing poor children, and binding them as apprentices, by the charter of 1669, he founded only three schools, those at Drogheda, Galway, and Tipperary. The course of instruction was directed to be in writing and casting accounts, and as far as the pupils were capable, in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew tongues, and they were to be fitted for the University if desired. The charter provided that they should be free schools, for twenty poor children to be named by the founder or governors, dwelling within two miles of the school, and for all the children of the tenants of Erasmus Smith, without limitation. The masters were authorized to receive entrance money from every scholar except from those who were thus entitled to free admission. The constitution of the schools with regard to religious instruction, was regulated by a rule of the foundation, by which the masters were bound to catechise their scholars on each Lord's day, in the catechism of Archbishop Ussher. The masters and ushers were to be approved of by the bishop of the diocese, and were required to sign the first two canons of the United Church. An exclusive religious foundation was thus established. The masters were to be appointed by the governors and visited by them, and the governors were also empowered to make regulations for the government of the schools. The charter contained some important provisions with regard to the appropriation of any increase of the rents of the estates. The surplus was, in the first instance, to be employed in raising the number of scholars in the schools, or in increasing the allowa[illegible] of those already there. The next provision was, that if the rents [illegible] £300 per annum, money should be expended in beautifying [illegible] The next trusts were for the payment of ushers; for the fou[illegible]

Lodge's Records of the Chancery Rolls.

* The Indenture, dated 1st December, 1657, made during the Proter[illegible] Smith conveyed his estates to found five grammar schools, was discov[illegible] had been adopted by the Commissioners.

ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

in the business of their respective departments; to give a general account of the manners, customs, and government of different nations, with a short abstract of their history; and to teach some of the modern languages, particularly French, Italian, and German. The academy was to be on the model of the Dundee Academy, and it was proposed that 100 eleemosynary scholars should be admitted; and that if the Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools should think proper to appropriate the surplus of their funds to the support of this academy, they should be intrusted with the entire government and patronage of the institution, the appointment of the masters and ushers, and nomination of the gratuitous scholars.

They recommended that boys should be promoted from the grammar schools to the professional academy, thereby anticipating the principle of the plan which many years afterwards was adopted by the Incorporated Society, and has been found to produce such satisfactory results. The suggestion of the Commissioners was never carried into effect; and the surplus rents not being appropriated, continued to accumulate until 1807, when they reached the sum of £35,000.

Comrs. of Educ., Rep. 1810, p. 220.

1809.

Ibid. p. 223.

The Commissioners of 1807–12 noticed the different schools of Erasmus Smith, and reported that the allowance to the masters of almost all of them was unequal to what the funds could afford, and to the reasonable expectations of properly qualified masters. During the inquiries of the Commissioners, the governors proceeded to apply their large surplus in founding English schools, to be conducted on principles similar to those of the schools that then received aid from Parliament, and they founded sixty-nine between 1808 and 1815. The sites being leased to the Governors, we obtained the leases from them for the purposes of our inquiry, and found them nearly all in a printed form. They contained a provision requiring all the children to be taught the Church catechism, in accordance with a similar provision in the charter as to the grammar schools.

These leases contain an improvident clause of surrender. The governors, after expending usually about £300 on a grant of two acres of land, as a site, bound themselves to pay a salary to the schoolmaster of £30; and in default of such payment the land, with the buildings erected by them, was to revert to the landlord, thus making the application of the funds permanently binding against themselves, while they exacted no security from the proprietor, that if he should get possession of the building by forfeiture, it should still be used for educational purposes.

Ev. 24198.

The result has been that thirteen school sites, which reverted to the grantors, have entailed a loss of £5,807, expended on the schools by the governors, and £677 arising from private donations. As they pay less than £30 a-year in nearly all these schools, the improvident form of the covenant places the endowments under the leases to which we have referred in jeopardy.

The English schools established by the governors up to 1814, formed part of that system of primary schools under the care of special Boards, which was sanctioned by public opinion until 1825.

1813.

The Erasmus Smith Schools were exempted from the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, and were continued under the control of the governors alone, without being subject to any other visitations.

By the charter of William IV. the Governors are, among other things, empowered to appoint ushers to the schools, without reference to the number of scholars, and to appoint salaries for them. The charter was granted on a representation that the ends and purposes of the former charter would be more effectually promoted by giving further powers to the Governors.

1839.

The next important exercise by the Governors of the power of founding schools took place between 1839 and 1843, when fifty-two schools were founded. This movement immediately followed the foundation of the Church Education Society for Ireland, and the terms of the leases indicate the close connexion between the principles of the two bodies; for instead of requiring that the Church catechism should be taught, these leases provided that the children should be instructed according to the regulations of the governors, the Holy Scriptures being read in the school, and all the children instructed therein.

Ev. 24065.

These leases were more improvidently framed than those of 1810–14. Although on a common form, they were not, like the former, printed, but engrossed at length, thereby involving the governors in a large expenditure for law costs. They contained a clause that if the Scriptures are not read, or children not instructed therein, or if the school should be permanently discontinued, the land

conveyed to the governors, and the buildings erected by them out of the funds of their charity, should belong, not to them, but to the proprietor who had granted the site, he not being placed under any obligation to continue the school. ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

Of the schools founded from 1839 to 1843, two sites have already been lost, involving the loss of £304 2*s.* 4*d.*, expended by the governors on buildings, and £252 1*s.* 2*d.* contributed by private individuals. Ev. 24202-12.

These schools were not, in the first instance, returned by the governors as endowed schools, although the land and buildings were vested in them. They came under our notice when we inspected the leases at a later period of our inquiry; the lateness of their discovery precluded them from being in all cases visited by the Assistant Commissioners, but they are included in the Tables of Schools and Endowments. *Vide*, p. 87, *infra*.

In 1854, a return to the House of Commons showed that the governors had limited the expenditure on the grammar schools, the original object of the founder; and that they had allowed the exhibitions to remain at the small sum of £8 and £6 a year, whilst their exhibitioners were put in competition with the candidates from the Royal schools, competing for exhibitions of £30 and £50 a year; and that consequently out of fifty exhibitions that could be obtained by pupils in ten years, only fourteen had been awarded to pupils of their grammar schools on entrance into Trinity College, and none whatsoever in three of the four years immediately preceding the return; thus defeating the intention of the founder, of "having the pupils, as far as they were capable, instructed in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew tongues and fitted for the University." Parl. Pap. 1854, No. 273. Ev. 3834, 5469-70.

It also appeared, that the provisions of the charter they thus referred to, had not been observed by them; for instead of the twenty pupils named by the Governors, and an unlimited number of children of their tenantry, holding free places in the grammar schools, there were in Galway, where a large part of the town is built on their estates, only five free pupils, and of these only three were children of tenants. In Tipperary, another school on their estates, there were only eleven free pupils, and of these only two sons of tenants. In Drogheda there were no free pupils; and in Ennis there were ten, none of them sons of tenants; but in the two latter towns the Governors had no estates. Parl. Pap. 1854, No. 273, p. 4.

We visited all the grammar schools, and a few of the English schools; and the masters of three of the grammar schools and several of the English schools were examined by us at our public courts, where other evidence was also submitted to us as to these schools. We proceed to state the result of our inquiries —first, as to the Grammar schools, and then as to the English schools.

ERASMUS SMITH'S FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

Drogheda, County of Louth.

Drogheda School is noticed favourably by the Commissioners of 1791. They observe that—

"To the grammar school at Drogheda the Governors have been very liberal, and the success had in a great measure rewarded their endeavours, the school having been for many years past of considerable celebrity, with one radical defect, common to most of the schools in this kingdom—a total neglect of composition. The number of boys was 123; seventy-two of them were boarders, and fifty-one day scholars. Of the latter, between twenty and thirty were free scholars. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 351.

"The Governors have been very liberal to this school in granting a salary of £250 to the master, though the charter limits the salary to be granted to every schoolmaster to 100 marks yearly. A second house and play-field had been purchased for the master, in the year 1780, for £1,170; and the sum of £200 was also allowed towards putting the said house in repair; and afterwards a further sum of £270 for new roofing." "The house of the head usher had also been enlarged, at an expense of £300, and will now receive fifty boarders.

"From the large sums already expended on this establishment, the great accommodations provided for the master, the high character of the school, the salubrity of this situation, and its convenient distance from the metropolis, we apprehend that a master trained in the habits of composition, and following the Eton or Westminster course, might soon be able to make this a great classical school."

The Commissioners of Inquiry in 1810 found that the Governors had reduced the salary of the master of the Drogheda School, and thrown upon him the burthen of repairs, at a time when they were accumulating a surplus of nearly £2,000 a-year. This neglect of the school, and of the comfort and position of

ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

the master, had a natural effect on the attendance; and we find accordingly that the school had dwindled to nearly twenty in 1807, although it afterwards rose to ninety-eight under Dr. Dowdall, who, at Dungannon, proved himself one of the ablest schoolmasters in Ireland, and who might have been retained at Drogheda, had the endowment been sufficient to induce a man of his acquirements to stay.

Ev. 12746. Ev. 12809-10. Parl. Pap, 1854, No. 273, p. 4. Ev. 12796-802. Ev. 12783-90.

It was stated in evidence before us that there are now only twenty boarders and forty day pupils, of whom six are free; the total number being only one-half of the number in 1789, and the free pupils being only one-fourth. The master was not aware that in pursuance of the charter he was bound to receive twenty free pupils. For the first time, in August, 1854, after the return to Parliament to which we have referred above, some free pupils, five in number, were presented to him for admission by the Governors.

The master was likewise ignorant of the rule that required the pupils to be catechised, and stated that when he gave religious instruction he allowed the Roman Catholics to absent themselves, and that many of the day pupils of other persuasions did not arrive until the termination of the religious instruction, which takes place at a very early hour.

Ev. 12772-8.

Neither was the master aware of the rule that it was optional with the pupils and their parents whether classics should be taught; and he mentioned that he experienced much inconvenience with regard to those who desired only an English education, from his conceiving he was bound to teach classics to all; whereas the charter provides that all shall learn "to write and cast accounts." And in the laws which Erasmus Smith was in his lifetime empowered, under the charter, to make, and which have been returned to us as so made, it is provided that certain children are to be taught Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, and fitted for the University, if their parents or friends desire it; while others of them are to be taught "to write and cypher, that they may be fit for disposement to trades or other employments." The master informed us, however, that he had never seen the charter, and had received no copy of it, or of any rules or regulations from the Board for his guidance, and that his school was never inspected.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 390. Ev. 12780-2.

Our Assistant Commissioner found, of the boys present, only five free pupils, and of sixty-one on the roll, only six free. There were twenty-two boarders on the roll, and nineteen present.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 181.

Two Roman Catholics attended the school as day pupils. The state of instruction was generally satisfactory; but there was a great deficiency in English composition, arising, no doubt, from the master's misunderstanding the terms of the foundation.

We recommend that the master of Drogheda School should provide a course of English and commercial education for boys intended for business, even though they may refuse to learn classics.

Ennis, County of Clare.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 352. Ev. 3827. Com. of Ed. Rep. 1810, p. 222.

The school at Ennis was established in the year 1773, as a grammar school; though the power of the Governors was limited to founding English schools. In 1789 the school enjoyed a high reputation; there were then fifty-six boarders and twenty-four day scholars, of whom twelve were free. In 1810, it also appears to have been in a satisfactory state; there were then thirty-one boarders and sixteen day boys, of whom eight were free. The number at present on the roll is fifty-eight, and of these thirty-eight are boarders and twenty day pupils, nine of these latter being free.

Ev. 3836. Ev. 3971. Ev. 4011-12.

At our public court at Ennis we received evidence concerning the state of this school, and examined, amongst others, the master of the school and Dr. Cullinan, formerly chairman of the Town Commissioners of Ennis. Dr. Cullinan complained that the charges for instruction were quite as high as those charged by respectable private schools; so that the public received no benefit from the endowment. It appears from the report of our Assistant Commissioner that the terms are forty guineas a-year (without extras) for boarders, and ten guineas for day pupils.

Ev. 4013-4. Ev. 4033.

Dr. Cullinan did not consider the reception of free pupils, as now regulated, a benefit, as out of the small number who had been so received, he had never heard of any who had succeeded in the University. He also complained that the Board had never exercised their power of assisting free pupils by clothing them and sending them out as apprentices. The Erasmus Smith exhibitions, which do not exceed £8 a-year each, are not of sufficient amount to support the pupils who obtain them.

It also appears that the Governors had undertaken to nominate free pupils, but had never done so but on one occasion. There was no inspection of the school, though required by the charter. In 1826, seven of the pupils at the Ennis School were Roman Catholics. And it appears from the report of our Assistant Commissioner, that of the day pupils, five are Roman Catholics, and of the boarders, one. And it is also stated that there is no religious instruction of a nature to interfere with the attendance of any class of persons whatsoever, although the charter required that the children should be taught in Ussher's catechism.

Ev. 3848.
Ev. 3898.
Ev. 3831.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports favourably as to the general state of the school, but notices the bad state of the schoolhouse. The master is unable to induce the governors to execute the necessary repairs, as they conceive it is not their duty to do so, although a trust to "beautify" the schoolhouses of the grammar schools is one of the earliest trusts in the charter, and has priority over those relative to the English schools on which the Governors spend so much. The pupils exhibited much proficiency in their studies, and their attention is directed to modern languages and science, as well as classics.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 272.
Ev. 3857, 3968.

We are of opinion that the Governors should place the schoolhouse in a suitable state of repair.

Galway, County of Galway.

In 1788, the schoolhouse at Galway being badly placed, and in other respects inconvenient, the building of a new one by the Board was in contemplation. The master received a salary of £100, and the number of pupils was fifty-three, all day scholars, and all free. The Commissioners of 1791 remarked that this school "differed materially from the other schools on this establishment, inasmuch as the scholars were all day scholars, and all received a gratuitous education"—a state of things which, under the then master, had continued for the preceding twenty years. In 1833, however, the Commissioners of Municipal Corporations Inquiry stated, with respect to Galway School, that, apparently, it was not open to free scholars. This apparent absence of free education is the more remarkable, as most of the people in the neighbourhood of the school being tenants on the school estate, upon which a considerable portion of the town of Galway is built, are entitled, under the terms of the charter, to free education, as a matter of right. The fact that so many of the inhabitants of Galway were entitled to free education may have led the master, in 1788, to admit all his pupils free as a conscientious fulfilment of the trust.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 352, 370.
Ev. 5722.

As a pay boarding school, however, the Galway School was, for some time after 1833, numerously attended; but it was stated in evidence before us, that under the last master, who had been incapacitated by age, the school had declined considerably. The present master, who was appointed in 1848, had never more than two boarders, while under a former master there had been as many as forty.

Ev. 5391, 5597.
Ev. 20116, 20134–8.
Ev. 5521, 5493.

As to religious instruction, it appears that at an early period Roman Catholics had been admitted in large numbers, but that in 1712 rules were framed "for the purpose of hindering the youth educated in the Grammar Schools continuing or turning Papists;" and that immediately afterwards the master of the Galway School complained that these rules had deprived him of eighty-five Roman Catholic pupils, "of whom seventy paid him for tuition; and that thereby he suffered very considerable loss." He prayed the governors to take the matter into their consideration, and either to relax the stringency of the rule or increase his salary. The matter was eventually referred to the Archbishop of Tuam, and it would appear that some compromise was entered into. It seems that after this Roman Catholics frequented the school, and it was stated before us that one usher was dismissed for interfering with the religious opinions of Roman Catholics. It thus appears that neither the intentions of the founder as to religious instruction, nor the rules of the Governors of 1712 were carried into effect.

Ev. 22789.
Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 391.
Ev. 5597.

Had this school been inspected as required by the charter, it is scarcely possible the intentions of the founder should have been so completely frustrated both as regards the admission of free pupils and the state of religious instruction, and this too entirely unknown to the Governors.

Ev. 20186–98.
Ev. 22777–90.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports the state of instruction to be not satisfactory. There were no boarders either in attendance or on the roll at the time of his inspection, although the buildings, erected in 1812, at a cost of £8,985 16*s.* 10*d.*, afford ample accommodation for boarders, and although the Queen's College, with its large endowments, holds out considerable encouragement to grammar school education in Galway.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 692.

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There were only twenty day scholars on the roll—just the number which the charter enables the Governors to select as free boys, independent of the sons of tenants—and of these only eight were free. Two of the eight free pupils, and one of the paying pupils, were Roman Catholics.

The Governors ought not, we think, to leave it optional with a master to refuse to take charge of boarders on moderate terms, where so suitable a building has been erected for them, at the expense of the charity.

Tipperary, County of Tipperary.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 351.

The state of this school in 1788 is thus noticed by the Commissioners of 1791: "The school in the town of Tipperary is accommodated with an excellent house for the schoolmaster, sufficient to contain eighty boarders, with nearly five acres of very valuable ground; also with ten acres of ground and a good house for the usher, sufficient to contain forty boarders; and though placed in a very convenient situation, and in a healthy and plentiful country, and though the master and usher are acknowledged to be men of abilities and good character, we are sorry to be obliged to observe, from the very small number of scholars (only five boarders and thirteen day scholars, of whom eleven are free scholars), that the school has fallen in its character, and does not answer the expectations that may be justly formed from the advantages before stated, and from the endeavours of the Governors to make it a great school."

Comrs. of Educ. Rep. 1810, p. 222.

The Commissioners of 1807–12 notice a similar state of inefficiency. The master was no longer the same, a new one having been appointed in 1796; and the Commissioners report that the bad state of the school was in some degree attributable either to want of exertion in the master, or to his not being so highly qualified in other respects as it were to be wished.

Our Assistant Commissioner found the schoolhouse in excellent condition, and well suited to serve as an extensive boarding and day school. It is kept in repair by the master, aided occasionally by grants from the Governors. But, notwithstanding this excellent schoolhouse, provided, moreover, with over fifteen acres of land, and with a master paid by the Board an increased salary of £100 per annum, there was not a single boarder in the school, and the number of day pupils in attendance was but thirteen, of whom only three were free, while the number on the roll was twenty-one, of whom seven were free. The pupils are the children of the neighbouring farmers and shopkeepers, and of those who were present, all were Roman Catholics but one, who was a Presbyterian. The former do not receive religious instruction. The master was appointed in 1830: he stated that there is no inspection of the school, and that he received no rules for his regulation and guidance. Inspection had been recommended in the Report of 1791, as the remedy for the inefficient state of the school, then attended by but five boarders and thirteen day scholars; and, in the Report of 1810, in addition to the exercise of the power of visitation, an examination, or some other test of the master's qualification, was proposed as a remedy for the state of the school, which still continued unsatisfactory, though the number of pupils had risen, in 1807, to twelve boarders and twenty-four day pupils, and to sixty-four pupils in 1809. Neither of these remedies was adopted, although one of them—inspection—is enjoined by the charter of foundation, and we now find the school without a single boarder since the year 1847, and with but thirteen day pupils present at the time of inspection, none of whom had made much progress in learning, even in classics. With regard also to their religious education, the wishes of the founder are not carried out. Although the grammar schools are not visited by the inspector appointed by the Board of Erasmus Smith, the half-yearly returns furnished by the master to the Governors showed that the school was not in a satisfactory state. When we interrogated the Chairman of the Governors on the subject, the only explanation offered was that the circumstances of the neighbourhood where the school is situate are such as to prevent it from arriving at a flourishing condition.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 387.

Ev. 22752–5.

The position of Tipperary, so near the centre of the railway communication of the south of Ireland, and the success of other boarding schools less advantageously placed, appear to us to demonstrate the inadequacy of this explanation.

Subsequent to the inquiries instituted by us, at our public court, with reference to this school, one of the Governors visited it, and his report led the Governors to call on the master to resign. They then appointed the Rev. Mr. Ryder, previously master of the Carrickmacross grammar school. Since his appointment we applied for a return of the number of pupils in the school, by which it appears

that on the 31st of October there were 53 in attendance, 38 of whom were boarders, and of the day pupils 9 were free. ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

The Governors should, by inspection, guard against the school being again brought into the unsatisfactory state in which it was before the appointment of the present master.

We proceed to notice such of the English Schools as were made the subject of inquiry at our public courts, or were visited by us.

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Ardee, County of Louth.

In 1808, the Corporation of Ardee granted upwards of an acre of land as a site, and also a rent-charge of £20 a year, late currency, payable out of the corporate property, to the Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools, they agreeing to build a schoolhouse at a cost of £300, and keep it in repair, and pay the master a salary of £20 a-year. The present Town Commissioners are dissatisfied with this arrangement, under which they are called on to support a school in which they can exercise no control over the course of instruction, though it is not such as to be satisfactory to Roman Catholics, the authorized version of the Scriptures being part of the daily lessons. The school was inspected by one of our Assistant Commissioners, who states the attendance as being forty-six on the roll, twenty-two of whom are free. Of these, twenty belong to the United Church, and twenty-six are Roman Catholics. There were present at the time he inspected, thirty-three pupils, of whom twenty were free. The state of instruction among the more advanced pupils was tolerably good. Ev. 12370-1.

Donadea Endowment for a School, County of Kildare.

In 1823 a site was granted for a school at Donadea, by Sir Gerald Aylmer, in consideration of £170, late currency, for the building of the schoolhouse out of the Lord Lieutenant's Fund. Shortly after this the Board of Erasmus Smith's Schools took the school under their management, and paying the master. It was stated in evidence at our court at Naas, that the Board had discontinued paying the master in 1854, on the ground that the school site had been encroached upon by the original grantor for the purpose of building a residence for the clergyman of the parish. Ev. 13863. Ev. 13851. Ev. 13795, 23091.

The proper remedy in this case would seem to have been an application on the part of the Governors to the Commissioners of Education to take steps for the due protection of the endowment.

Instead, however, of resisting the encroachment by legal means, the Governors withdrew their endowment, and dismissed, without compensation or pension, two old and most efficient teachers, who had been for years in their service.

The Chairman of the Governors alleged that they were under the impression that they had no power to grant pensions, although they had done so in several cases that were brought under our notice. Ev. 22773, 22956

Dundalk Boys' School, Dundalk Girls' School, County of Louth.

In 1812 the Earl of Roden granted a site for a school to the Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools. The governors built a house, and as the deed of grant contained the improvident clause of surrender which has already been noticed, the endowment is liable at any time to be lost to the purposes of education. The deed also contained the clause as to teaching the catechism. There are two schools kept here, one for boys, and one for girls.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports the attendance at the boys' school as sixty present, out of ninety on the roll; there are but six Roman Catholics. The school is in connexion with the Church Education Society, and under their inspection, as well as that of Erasmus Smith's Board. The state of instruction is not satisfactory. Tables, vol. iii., p. 182.

The attendance at the girls' school was sixty-six on the roll, forty-three being present, all of whom were free, and six of them Roman Catholics. The state of education is noticed as being very unsatisfactory. The girls' school is connected with the Church Education Society in the same way as the boys' school. Ibid.

Faughanvale, Muff School, County of Londonderry.

We received evidence about this school at our public court at Londonderry, and referred the case to one of our Assistant Commissioners. The schoolhouse was Ev. 10593.

Erasmus Smith's Schools.

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 2 Rep. 1826, p. 446.

built by the Board of Erasmus Smith, at a cost of £300, and in the Second Report of the Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry, 1826, it is mentioned that the school was attended by fifty-eight pupils, of whom eighteen belonged to the United Church, sixteen were Presbyterians, and twenty-four Roman Catholics. Of the total number, thirty-three were boys, and twenty-five girls. The attendance at the school now amounts to sixty, of whom half are stated to be free. Very few of them are Presbyterians. It seems the Presbyterian minister of the neighbourhood claimed a right to visit this school, but was informed that the rules of the Erasmus Smith foundation allowed only one visitor, the clergyman of the United Church.

Ev. 10733–38.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 307.

A complaint preferred to us on this matter, led to a public inquiry before our Assistant Commissioner. The evidence received by him was taken by one of our shorthand writers, and is annexed. We found that the inquiry offered nothing but a personal matter between the parties to the complaint.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 596, 617.

Our Assistant Commissioner inspected the school. He reports the state of instruction as unsatisfactory. There were sixty pupils on the roll, of whom twenty-one were members of the United Church, thirty-six Roman Catholics, and three Presbyterians.

Galway English Boys' School, Galway English Girls' School, County of Galway.

There are two of the Erasmus Smith English Schools at Galway, one for boys and the other for girls. The Governors gave the site and subscribed for the building about 1826. In the report of the Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in Ireland in 1833, both these schools are mentioned as free schools; but it is stated that the teachers are not required to educate gratis more than the limited number of twenty in each. The master and mistress have salaries from the Board of £20 each.

Ev. 5722.

Ev. 5719.

The attendance in these schools, which is stated in the Report of 1826 to have been then forty-four boys and twenty-three girls, has since greatly declined; and at the time of our Assistant Commissioner's inspection there were but sixteen present at the boys' school, and nine at the girls', the numbers on the roll being twenty-one and twelve respectively, none of whom were Roman Catholics. All at the boys' school are free, but of those at the girls' only one of those present, and three of those on the roll, are so.

Ev. 5751–4.

Ev. 5758.

The master of the boys' school stated that all pupils are taught the Protestant catechism; this statement following another, to the effect that there was no interference with the religion of Roman Catholics. It is remarkable that the Board of Erasmus Smith furnished the master with a school roll headed "Galway School under the Church Education Society," although the school is under their own management and visited by their inspector. The mistress also was examined at our public court.

Ev. 5883.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 692.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that the pupils in the girls' school were very backward, but that the answering in the boys' school, though generally not satisfactory, was good in some departments. The master stated that he was not adequately supplied with school requisites by the Board.

Glyde Farm, Endowment for a School, County of Louth.

Ev. 12250–2.

It appeared in evidence at our public court at Dundalk, that the Erasmus Smith school at Glyde Farm had been closed some time previously, the purchaser of the estate on which it was built claiming the site as his private property.

The Governors had to withdraw their grant, although the clergyman of the parish was most anxious for the revival of the school. This case illustrates the importance of having the buildings devoted to educational purposes permanently secured against the risks usually incident to the change of ownership of land.

Innishannon, County of Cork.

Ev. 1675.

We received evidence concerning Innishannon school at our public court at Cork, and it was also visited by one of our Assistant Commissioners. The number of pupils on the roll is twenty-five, all day boys, and twenty-two of them free; and the number present at the time of inspection was nineteen, of whom sixteen were free. Of these, seventeen belonged to the United Church, and two were Roman Catholics. The Scriptures are read and expounded to all the pupils, but the catechism is taught only to those who belong to the United Church. The Board pays the master £25 a-year, and £5 gratuity, and he has no other emolument as teacher except pupils'

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to them,—and being given to children as a reward for good attendance at the school, which was licensed for the performance of divine service.

Ev. 4374–5.
Ev. 4378.
Ev. 4402.
Tables, vol. iii. p. 356.

This school is, like the other English schools, under the inspection of Mr. Hamilton, the registrar and inspector of the Governors.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports very unfavourably of the answering of the pupils he found in the school, and he thought the instruction in a very backward state.

Sligo, County of Sligo.

Ev. 6766–8.
Ev. 2911–12.

We received some evidence about Sligo School in our public court, and it was suggested by the curate that the aid of an assistant master was wanted. The Chairman of the Governors, when examined by us in Dublin, admitted the want, as he had visited the school himself, but stated that the Governors had no power to pay an assistant. We cannot, however, concur in this construction of the Act, as the power of founding and endowing English schools seems to be given to the governors in the largest terms.

Ev. 6669.

It was stated in evidence before us that at a former period the Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools had joined the Incorporated Society in maintaining for some time in the Old Charter School at Sligo, a school that met the wants of the middle classes. This school had, however, been discontinued for reasons not stated to us, and we received evidence of the great want that exists in Sligo of such a school. The Commissioners of Education Inquiry in 1827 recommended a diocesan school to be placed at Sligo to supply a similar want that they found to exist.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 730.

Our Assistant Commissioner visited the school that now exists at Sligo, on a site granted in 1823 by Mr. Wynne, of Hazelwood, the proprietor of the town. Sixty-four day pupils were present, of whom fifty-four were free. The number on the roll was ninety-six, of whom eighty-five were free. Our Assistant Commissioner states that the school was very promising, but a want of order was observable. This defect arises from leaving almost 100 boys to be taught by one master; the state of progress, under such a disadvantage, is very creditable to the master; but the state of instruction is not quite satisfactory. Of the ninety-six pupils on the roll, thirty-three are Roman Catholics, fourteen Dissenters, and forty-nine members of the United Church. This union of members of different religious persuasions exists, although it is stated that the Scriptures are read in the school by all the pupils, and the Church Catechism is taught to members of the United Church.

Sturgan, Killevy, Endowment for a School, County of Armagh.

Ev. 9314–15.

In our public court at Armagh our attention was called to a school on the foundation of Erasmus Smith at Sturgan; it is noticed in the Second Report of the Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry, 1825. The school was then well attended. The house had been built out of the funds of Erasmus Smith at a cost of £300 Irish, and from the same source the master received a salary of £30.

Ev. 9327.

It was stated in evidence before us that the Board of Erasmus Smith had ceased to pay the teacher's salary since 1850. The curate of the parish was very anxious to have the endowment restored, and the school put in an efficient state.

Ev. 23059.

The Chairman of the Board stated that the school had been stopped because it was badly attended at the time when the Governors had to reduce the number of schools. The house and land had been allowed to remain rent free in the hands of the late master. If the Governors do not restore the endowment it will become the property of the landlord on whose estate the funds of the charity had been expended.

Tarbert Boys' School, Tarbert Girls' School, County of Kerry.

Ev. 21630.

Tarbert School—originally for both boys and girls, but about twelve years ago, divided into two—is the oldest of the English schools on the foundation of Erasmus Smith now in existence, having been established nearly seventy years ago.

Our Assistant Commissioner found at the boys' school twenty-six on the roll, fifteen of whom were free, and twenty-one present, of whom twelve were free. Of those on the roll, twenty-three belonged to the United Church, and three were Roman Catholics. At the girls' school thirty-four were on the roll, and twenty-one present, sixteen of the former and twelve of the latter being free. Of the thirty-four girls, four were Roman Catholics and thirty Protestants. The

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tion. The school is inspected by the inspector of the Governors, and visited by the clergyman of the parish. Though not actually in connexion with the Church Education Society its rules and regulations are those adopted in this school.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that the state of instruction is satisfactory.

Wexford Girls' School, County of Wexford.

The Board of Erasmus Smith also maintains a girls' school at Wexford.

Our Assistant Commissioner states that the number of pupils on the roll is forty, of whom twenty-six were present when he visited; all free, and belonging to the United Church. The teacher is paid by the Board of Erasmus Smith, £15 salary, and £5 gratuity, and receives £6 from local subscriptions. Most of the pupils are young; but those more advanced answered fairly in the elementary departments of English education, and read well. This school is kept in the same house as that for the boys, and is in all other respects under similar arrangements.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS ON ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

There are four Grammar schools and 140 English schools in connexion with the Governors, which we have treated as endowed schools, either on account of their receiving part of the annual income of the charity in payment of the salary of the master, or on account of the site and schoolhouse being vested in the Governors for educational purposes. In the Grammar and 117 of the English schools, the salaries of the masters are paid out of the funds of the charity. In 23 English schools the only endowment is the site and schoolhouse vested in the Governors.

Vide p. 86, *infra*.

The average attendance of pupils in all the grammar schools, for the year of inspection, 1855–56, appears from the annexed tables to be 116; the number of pupils on the roll, 160. Of these, 128 were ascertained to be members of the United Church, 23 Roman Catholics, and 1 a Presbyterian.

The average attendance for same year in all the English schools appears from the tables to be 4,241. The number of pupils on the roll is 7,010. Of these, 4,293 were ascertained to be members of the United Church, 875 Roman Catholics, 1,420 Presbyterians, and 47 of other religious denominations.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 731.

In the Table of General Endowments we have estimated the net annual income of Erasmus Smith's fund, applicable to schools, at £7,462 6*s.* 2*d.* The Inspector of Estates has reported that the rental or letting value of the estates may be estimated at £9,516 18*s.* 1*d.*; and deducting 15 per cent. for cost of collection and taxes, this leaves a net income from land of £8,089 7*s.* 5*d.* The Government stock held by the Governors, which is subject to the same trusts as the land, being the produce of land purchased from the Governors for public purposes, is £2,431 5*s.* 10*d.*, giving, at three per cent., an annual income of £72 18*s.* 9*d.*, making the entire net income of the Governors £8,162 6*s.* 2*d.* There are two trusts not connected with schools—one for certain Fellows and Professors of Trinity College, and the other for Christ's Hospital, London. The grants to Trinity College, estimated at the amount they were in 1846, before the reductions on account of the famine, would make £600 a-year; the £360 given for exhibitions being considered a school endowment. The grant to Christ's Hospital is £100 a-year; and these being deducted from £8,162 6*s.* 2*d.*, will give the net annual income applicable to schools as £7,462 6*s.* 2*d.*

Vide p. 84, *infra*.

We have inserted in our report tables showing a summary of the expenditure of the Governors for each half-year, from the 1st of November, 1843, to the 1st of May, 1855; and also of their income and expenditure for the half-years ending the 1st of November, 1854, and 1st of May, 1855; and their Account Balance for the 1st of November, 1854, and the 1st of May, 1855.

It appears from these statements, that whilst the expenditure on the grammar schools was, in eleven years and a-half, only £10,000, the expenditure on the English schools during the same period was £36,000.

Appendix, p. 2.

Our Assistant Commissioners, in their general Reports, notice the Erasmus Smith schools. Mr. Crawford says the masters of the grammar schools "are left almost perfectly uncontrolled by the Governors of Erasmus Smith's Charity. The schools are never inspected, the terms for pupils undefined, course of education not prescribed, and there is nothing to distinguish these schools from other private schools, except that the receipt of a considerable salary and the

use of large and commodious houses and grounds give to the masters such advantages over private teachers as should put down all competition. So far as my observations extend, these advantages enable the masters to pay less attention to the reasonable desires and wishes of the parents of the pupils, in respect to vacations and similar arrangements in relation to the school, than private teachers could dare to do." ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

He states, with regard to the English schools, "Some of them are efficient; some very much the contrary. It seems to me that there is not that frequent inspection which is essential to the success of this class of schools. There is only one in the year, and that at or about a fixed time; and I have reason to believe that the inspector does not see a school in its ordinary every day character. The salaries are also too low to attract the most efficient teachers; and I found, as a general rule, having but few exceptions, that wherever a school was maintained in part by this charity, local contributions to the school were inconsiderable, and sometimes non-existent. In many cases the parochial clergy, who made use of the school as their parochial school, did not add any thing to the salary of the master; and thus the objects of the charity of Erasmus Smith seemed to be, in practice, the neighbouring proprietors of land and the parochial clergy. I would suggest that no grant should be made by the Governors for salary of a master, unless it was of itself sufficient to secure the services of a good one, or a sufficient addition to the sum granted was guaranteed." Appendix, p. 3.

Mr. Crawford states that the inefficiency of several of the schools in the south of Ireland arises from the exclusively Protestant character of the trust not being satisfactory to the Roman Catholic population. Thus, he says:—"The masters of these schools are required to be of the Established Church, and all the pupils are required to read in school-hours the Holy Scriptures. In many of the places where these schools exist in the south of Ireland the population of the district is, in a large degree, Roman Catholic; and schools in which the teachers are exclusively Protestant, and in which the Holy Scriptures are read under such teachers, are regarded with suspicion by the Roman Catholic clergy, who generally exercise their influence to keep the children of their flocks, who are more than infants, from attending the school. The effect of this has been, in several cases, that after a large expenditure in erecting and establishing the school, the Governors have been obliged to abandon the school and the value of the house to the landlords." Ibid.

Mr. Abraham, whose district lay in the centre and west of Ireland, where the population is chiefly Roman Catholic, classes the Erasmus Smith English schools with the Church Education Society's schools, and states that they appeared to him miserably inefficient. He ascribes their inefficiency, amongst other causes, to the incompetency of the teachers, the defects of the system, and the inferiority of the school-books. Ibid. p. 5.

Dr. M'Blain says of the grammar schools:—"This class of schools is entirely under the control and management of the head master, who is subject to no manner of inspection or visitation, and who has received no rules from the Erasmus Smith Board to guide him in the discharge of his duty. I think this state of things, while it is in contravention of the charter regulating the Erasmus Smith's schools, is also injurious to the efficiency of the school, which would be much promoted by a regular and adequate inspection. I may observe that the masters themselves appear to desire inspection. Ibid. p. 10.

"Two other matters occurred to me in reference to Drogheda Grammar School—first, the education given is scarcely of that practical character which the wants of the locality require. It is to be observed, that not more than one-fourth of the pupils attending the school are destined for the University, and that the remainder generally turn to commercial or manufacturing pursuits; it is obviously, therefore, of leading importance to give a good mercantile education, and with it to combine instruction in modern languages. At present the modern languages do not form any part of the course of instruction; such of the pupils as choose may learn French, but then it is an extra and not taught during the ordinary school-hours. Second, the small college exhibitions of £8 or £10 a-year, which are reserved for the competition of pupils from the Erasmus Smith grammar schools, are quite too inadequate in amount to offer the necessary stimulus to exertion. A judicious suggestion has been made to diminish the number of exhibitions, and increase the pecuniary value of each.

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"It is useless to continue these exhibitions on their present footing, as they are altogether inoperative for the purpose originally contemplated by their establishment."

Appendix, p. 10.

With regard to the English schools, he notices the inadequate inspection, the exclusive character of the instruction, and the inadequacy of the salaries of the masters, as causes of inefficiency. He says:—"The English schools are subject to an annual inspection by a paid officer of the Board. It is not possible, however, that the work of inspection of these schools, now 113 in number, can be adequately discharged by a single individual, no matter how great his physical or mental endowments may be. The schools are ramified throughout every part of Ireland; and it must, I apprehend, be a very great strain on the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, who now discharges the arduous duties of inspector, to visit and examine each of these schools, as he informs me he does, in the short space of five months each year. There should be at least two inspectors appointed, and two inspections annually of their respective districts.

"It would also tend to promote the efficiency of these schools if premiums were given to the pupils for proficiency, as well as for regular attendance, to which latter, by the present regulations, they are confined.

"A further circumstance affecting the class of children attracted to the schools is involved in the regulation of the governors, which enforces the daily reading of the authorized version of the Scriptures on all children who are able to read. This rule is naturally obnoxious to Roman Catholics, and it will therefore excite no surprise that the benefits of these establishments are mainly restricted to the Protestant portion of the community. In general, too, the salaries of the teachers are inadequate in amount."

Mr. Pennefather, whose inspections were confined to the counties of Antrim, Armagh, and Down, where there is a large Protestant population, speaks more favourably of the Erasmus Smith English schools, but he also notices the inadequacy of the inspection and the insufficiency of the salaries of the masters. He says:—"The schools on the foundation of Erasmus Smith which I visited were English day schools. The general impression made on my mind was favourable. The houses usually are suitable. In many instances the schools are subject to clerical inspection, as well as the inspection by the officer of the Governors of the Board, and the governors admit the inspection of the Church Education Society. If, however, the inspection were left to the governors alone, I do not consider that their annual inspection is by any means adequate. The salaries, generally speaking, given by the Governors are not sufficient to secure the services of efficient masters; they are, however, in many instances increased by the master filling the place of parish clerk, and receiving the salary attached to that office. In addition to the salaries allowed by them, the Governors give a gratuity to the teachers if the school is reported as satisfactory, and in some instances the income of the master is increased by local subscriptions."

Ibid. p. 13.

The most remarkable circumstance to be observed about these schools is the extent to which the Governors have neglected the grammar schools, which were the original object of the endowment, and departed from the intention of the founder in their management.

The intentions of Erasmus Smith and of his son seem to have been to favour middle class education, and to enable the clever boy of the poorer classes to rise, by means of free places in the grammar schools and exhibitions in Trinity College, to the highest positions which a University education would enable him to attain.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 354.

The Commissioners of 1791 praised the Governors for their faithful fulfilment of the trust confided to them, and proposed and expected that the Governors would endow and maintain the professional academy specially intended for middle class education. After 1791 the grammar schools were generally in comparative decay, except when under a good master, and the Governors did nothing to check this evil.

The charter provided that there should be twenty free pupils selected by the Governors in each grammar school, and that a particular system of religious instruction should be pursued, and that the school should be inspected, with a view, no doubt, to see whether the charter was observed. It appears, however, that the Governors have almost entirely neglected to exercise their right of nominating

free pupils, and have not made known to the tenants of their estates the existence of the right of their children to free admission. In none of the grammar schools are there the requisite number of free pupils; and as to one of the schools, an advertisement on the subject was not issued by the Governors until 1854. Erasmus Smith's Schools. Ev. 12796–805.

The trust with respect to the exhibitions was also an early trust, and the Governors had clearly power to increase their amount, and yet, although the candidates for these prizes are examined with those from the Royal Schools, and the result may have disclosed to the Governors the failure of their schools in preparing exhibitioners, they neither inspected the schools, nor raised the exhibitions to the same scale as those of the Royal Schools, so as to afford the same encouragement to clever boys, and thus to sustain the character of their schools; on the contrary, from 1839 to 1843, at the time when this failure of the exhibitioners was first manifest, they founded fifty-two new schools for the poorer classes, whose education was then most amply provided for by the large Parliamentary grants to the National Board. No doubt they had power to do this, and their anxiety to found English schools must be ascribed to the conviction that their schools were superior to those established under the National Board. But it must be observed that this wider development of the system of the English schools diminished their power to promote the education of the middle classes, which was specially intrusted to them, as the primary object of the charter.

The rules of the charter, as to religious instruction, are not observed in any of the grammar schools; and the masters seemed to be entirely unaware of the existence of such rules, although they were returned by the Governors to the House of Commons in 1854 as the only rules in existence. Ev. 5469.

The charter, which required that all pupils of the grammar schools should be instructed in the catechism of Archbishop Ussher, had been systematically violated in the three grammar schools as to which we received evidence. Thus, the master at Ennis says:—"I never interfere with their creed (*i. e.*, that of the Roman Catholics) in any one point or way." The free pupils at Ennis are in general Roman Catholics, and the rules as to instruction in catechism were never made known to the master. In Galway there was no interference with the religious opinions of Roman Catholics; an usher was dismissed for interfering with the religious opinions of the boys. It appears, also, that at one time the Roman Catholic religion was taught to the Roman Catholic boys at the school. At Drogheda Roman Catholic boys are allowed to absent themselves from religious instruction, and about one-third of the pupils do not attend it. Ev. 3969. Ev. 4120. Ev. 5594. Ev. 6017. Ev. 12786–90.

Although the Governors have, as an inspector for their English schools, a clergyman of the United Church, and a Master of Arts, who necessarily passes every year through three of the four towns in which the grammar schools are situate, he has never been directed to inspect them; and the masters have never received a copy of the charter, or any instructions to enable them to follow its provisions. The number of free pupils and the state of religious instruction might be ascertained even without inspection. Ev. 21737, 21845.

The governors also neglected some other trusts of the charter as to the grammar schools; thus, the beautifying of the schoolhouses is a trust which ought to have early priority in the application of the surplus. This, however, has been neglected, and the cost of repairs frequently thrown on the masters with their small endowments of £100 a-year. Ev. 21780–4.

Even the regulation of the course of instruction was neglected, for the master of the school situate in the rising mercantile community of Drogheda thought that a grammar school necessarily meant a school where all should receive a classical education, and had some hesitation in allowing any of his pupils to give up the study of classics; whereas the founder had clearly provided that those only who desired it should be taught the University course. Ev. 12776.

The English schools, to which the Governors have devoted so much of their funds, do not disclose a much more satisfactory system of management. They are inspected, but the inspector is the registrar, who thus has divided and inconsistent duties, whilst the consequent partition of duties between him and the assistant registrar leads to a most inconvenient division of responsibility.

Some of the English schools are, like that of Galway, inadequately supplied with school requisites. Sligo is without a sufficient number of masters. With regard to religious instruction, the leases of the English schools vary as to the trusts stipulated to be observed. The sixty-nine which were founded from

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1808 to 1815 require the catechism of the United Church to be taught to all; and the fifty-two which were founded from 1839 to 1843 require the Scriptures to be read by all.

The reading of the Scriptures is not enforced on all the pupils, and the teaching of the catechism to children of the United Church is added to Scriptural instruction in the schools where the latter only is provided for.

The inspection of the English schools does not seem to secure to the Governors the sole management and visitation, which they claim to be vested in them. One master got a gratuity from the Incorporated Society, another is inspected quarterly by the secretary of a diocesan society, and several schools are regularly inspected by, and in apparent connexion with, the Church Education Society; —indeed, so close is this connexion, begun, as we have observed, by the foundation of the schools in 1839, that the very forms of the Church Education Society are used in the schools by some of the masters in keeping their rolls.

Such divided responsibility as this connexion with other bodies produces, must be injurious, and its evil results are shown in case of the Galway English school where they were especially brought under our notice, for the master complained that he was not adequately supplied with books, and our Assistant Commissioners have noticed a similar defect in other schools.

Thus, the Governors have not only neglected the primary trust of their grammar schools, but have not managed prudently the secondary trust of English schools, which they have developed to an extent disproportionate to their resources.

The Governors applied to us to have a copy of the evidence that had been taken at our public courts on circuit furnished to them; we felt it would be inconsistent with our duty to comply with their request, but we had such portions of the evidence as related to these schools read out to their officers at our office in Dublin Castle, and they had an opportunity of taking notes.

We afterwards examined Mr. Barlow, the Chairman and Treasurer of the Governors; Rev. Mr. Hamilton, the Registrar and Inspector of Schools; Mr. Thorp, the Assistant-Registrar; and Mr. Fetherston, the Solicitor to the Governors.

Ev. 22737.

When Mr. Barlow was examined as to the complaints with respect to the grammar schools, he stated that the Governors "left the grammar schools to the control of the masters themselves, conceiving that they ought to have a greater interest in their welfare than the Governors had."

This view, of the interest of the master of an endowed school being the same as the interest of the public, is entirely inconsistent with the charter of the foundation, which intrusted the Governors with large powers to control the masters, to prevent their refusing free pupils or boarders, or to violate the trusts of the founder, by adopting a practice with regard to religious instruction contrary to his intentions, though that violation should be for the interest of the master.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 297. Ev. 22739–40.

The Governors at first stated to us that the trusts reposed in them by the late Erasmus Smith could not be submitted to any authority or inquiry, without involving a direct breach of duty on their part, on the grounds that, they alone had the exclusive right of visiting the schools intrusted to them by charter, and it required an Act of Parliament to authorize a visitation by any other authority.

Ev. 21845–55.

We found, however, that the Governors had not for years performed the duty which they thus claimed for themselves.

Ev. 21849.

There had not been any visitation by the Governors at Tipperary Grammar School for twenty years; Mr. Barlow admitted that the Governors rarely, if ever, visited; that they never inspected except by accident; and he stated that the Governors were not at all aware of the systematic violation of the charter as to religious instruction, that had for years taken place at their grammar schools.

Ev. 22782–98, 22978–82.

The want of personal visitation had not been supplied by inspection of subordinate officers, as the grammar schools were never inspected by the Inspector of English schools, nor was a special inspector appointed for them. The utility of this personal visitation of the Governors was shown by the case of Tipperary school, in respect to which, after our inquiries, Mr. Barlow's visit led to the master being called on to resign, and to an efficient successor being appointed.

We submitted the books of account of the Governors to the inspection of the

ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

Ev. 19625. Mr. Barlow stated that, he rather thought that those figures in the column referred to the vouchers; and when informed that they referred to folios in the leger, he said, "I know nothing of it, as I never looked into the leger in my life; I am not an accountant, I am not a book-keeper, and if I did look to it, I dare say, I would not be much wiser than I am at present; I am glad to have the opportunity of saying, I never looked into a page of it."

Ev. 24003. We examined Mr. Fetherston, the solicitor of the Governors; he admitted that the form of accounts by double entry had been supplied from his office, and ordered by the Board in 1843 to be adopted, but that it was never observed.

Ev. 24004–5. He admitted that the accounts should, in compliance with the charter and the rules of the Governors, have been made up annually, and should have included

Ev. 24019. all liabilities. But he stated that his first bill of costs was only furnished at the end of six years; his second, at the end of four years; his third and fourth, at the end of eleven years each; and his fifth and sixth, at the end of three years.

Ev. 24045. He admitted that the form of conveyance to the Governors of school sites, prepared under his advice, was not in accordance with the precedents of leases,

Ev. 24050. made under the Lord Lieutenant's School Fund Commissioners, or under the

Ev. 24053. Association for Discountenancing Vice, and that it contained an improvident clause, under which the Governors had already lost part of the charity funds that they had expended in building, and were liable to lose more.

He admitted that this form was adopted, although the Governors had, under a similar defect in the earlier conveyances to them, lost a still larger sum. The result of his evidence as to the earlier losses is:—

Ev. 24198. "Six schools have been discontinued in consequence of the falling off in the attendance, five schools for causes not stated, one school in consequence of the situation being unfavourable, and another, because it became an infant school. There was expended on these schools by the Governors, £5,807, and there were twenty acres of land attached to them, all which have reverted to the original grantors; the private donations amounted to £677, making an aggregate of £6,484; and if we estimate the twenty acres of land at £33 an acre, they will produce £660, making a grand total of £7,144. The loss of this sum of money to the Governors would not have taken place, if the leases had been drawn in accordance with the charter."

Ev. 24099–24119. Mr. Fetherston obtained out of the Court of Chancery trust funds arising from the purchase of lands of the charity by railway companies. These funds were paid to the Governors in such a way that they could treat them as available for the annual expenditure, instead of being required to invest them as a special inalienable trust fund.

Ev. 24213, 24223. It appeared from the bills of costs, that Mr. Fetherston attended nearly all the meetings of the Governors, that he performed many of the duties that properly belonged to the registrar, and others that belonged to the agent. Whilst he was thus acting no one attended at the taxation of his bills of costs extending over so many years, except on the last occasion, when he selected as the solicitor

Ev. 23978, 24227. to represent the Governors on the taxation of his costs against them, his son, Mr. Stephen R. Fetherston, who is in his office.

We are of opinion that the chief defect in the management of the Erasmus Smith charity, arises from the constitution of the body that forms the executive of the charity.

The management appears to have been largely intrusted to Mr. Fetherston, the solicitor. This, we think, is a bad arrangement; Mr. Fetherston does not devote his entire time to the business of the Governors, he is solicitor to many other public boards, and has a large private practice. His mode of payment by costs of attendance and law proceedings, is not the best for a manager or director.

Ev. 19079. In consequence of the registrar being also inspector a large share of the management devolves on Mr. Thorp, the assistant-registrar; he, however, gives no security; and Mr. Hamilton, the registrar, is said to be responsible for him, and thus a divided responsibility subsists between these officers.

Ev. 19068 *et seq.* The Governors have no bye-laws regulating the duties of their several officers, and hence the most conflicting opinions were given by the officers as to their duties and responsibilities.

The Rev. Mr. Hamilton fills the office of registrar and inspector of schools, the duties of the latter office take him several months in the year from Dublin. The various qualifications necessary for the two offices appear to us to indicate, that they should not be united.

The Treasurer is *ex officio* Chairman of the Board of Governors and also Auditor, offices which we think should not be united.

The first change which we recommend is, to separate the office of registrar from that of inspector of schools. The registrar should, we think, be a man of business, conversant with public matters, acquainted with book-keeping, and able to check the agent's accounts, and advise the Board as to the transaction of its business, without the constant presence of a solicitor. The inspector of the English schools should be required to devote his entire time to the duties of his office.

The inspection of the four grammar schools would not be sufficient to occupy the time of one inspector, and we think this duty might be performed by some one holding an educational position in the University of Dublin, with which the charity is connected. It appears to us that these and other grammar schools in Ireland might be benefited by the application of the principles recently adopted in the University of Oxford with respect to middle class education.

The solicitor should be employed only with reference to the transaction of special legal business.

We think that the office of paid treasurer might be advantageously revived and separated from the office of chairman, and intrusted to some governor, whose duty it would be to attend the office regularly, in order to direct the registrar, the inspector of schools, and the agents, and on whom, as being a paid officer, a special responsibility would devolve.

The auditing of the accounts should not be intrusted to the chairman or any governor, but should be transferred to the Government Board of Audit which we propose. *Vide* p. 228 *supra*.

The Governors should place their grammar schools on an efficient footing; they should carry out the directions of the founders as to religious instruction, and increase the value of the exhibitions attached to the schools. They should draw up instructions for the masters, as to free places, the course of instruction, the charges for day scholars and boarders, and other matters of importance, and should also appoint a competent inspector to examine the schools. They ought also themselves occasionally to visit the schools, in compliance with the charter, in order to ascertain that the trusts of the charity and their own orders are carried into effect.

We are of opinion that all the free places should be defined in number and given away chiefly by examination, and partly on the grounds of poverty, and that the Governors should make regulations on the subject.

We have already stated our opinion that the Governors should place the school-house at Ennis, in a suitable state of repair; that the Governors ought not to leave it optional with the master of the Galway School, to take charge on moderate terms of boarders, where so suitable a building has been erected for them; and that the master of Drogheda School should provide an extensive course of English and mercantile education for boys who may refuse to learn classics, at a rate of charge not exceeding £6 per annum, and that the regulations founded on these cases should be applied to all the grammar schools.

We are of opinion that statutable powers should be given in all cases of persons under disabilities, authorizing the conveyance of their present school sites to the Governors, discharged of the clauses of forfeiture of the school premises contained in the existing deed of conveyance; and that powers should also be given in all cases of persons under disabilities to charge their estates for the purchase of any school premises which the Governors may decide on surrendering.

We think that the Governors should endeavour to secure an increase of salary to their masters, by applying for contributions from the proprietors and clergymen connected with each district, and that they should, if unable to secure enough of extraneous support, rather diminish the number of their English schools, than reduce the salaries of their masters below the sum necessary to secure efficiency, giving up those which are badly attended in consequence of the small number of Protestants in the neighbourhood.

We are of opinion that the Governors should also make provision for a better supply of school requisites; and we think that they should convert some of their most efficient English schools into model schools, furnishing training for pupil teachers.

Most of the errors which we have noticed have arisen from the undue extension of the system of English schools, which was not contemplated by the founder. The Governors have thus left themselves without means properly to execute the primary trust. But the founding of the English schools was not illegal. It was authorized

ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

by the letter of the Act of 1723, and the plan received the approval of the Commissioners of 1827.

Whilst we have thus observed on the course of proceeding of the Governors, in the management of their schools, and the administration of the affairs of the charity, we feel it is due to those who at present hold the office of Governors, to state that no malversation or actual loss of money appears to have occurred from

Summary of Expenditure.

1. SUMMARY of EXPENDITURE upon and for the purposes of the SCHOOLS, TRINITY COLLEGE,

DATE.	SCHOOLS, &c.			
	Trinity College.	King's Hospital.	Christ's Hospital.	Grammar Schools.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Half-year ending 1st May, 1844, .	—	544 3 10	—	480 12 4
,, ,, 1st November, 1844,	978 9 3	380 5 2	—	537 12 9
,, ,, 1st May, 1845, .	978 9 3	300 0 0	200 0 0	522 4 5
,, ,, 1st November, 1845,	—	739 14 7	—	461 1 5
,, ,, 1st May, 1846, .	960 0 0	303 1 11	100 0 0	458 14 2
,, ,, 1st November, 1846,	—	—	—	500 19 10
,, ,, 1st May, 1847, .	960 0 0	691 0 3	—	586 11 1
,, ,, 1st November, 1847,	—	—	—	492 3 4
,, ,, 1st May, 1848, .	960 0 0	622 9 1	200 0 0	585 0 5
,, ,, 1st November, 1848,	—	—	—	431 12 2
,, ,, 1st May, 1849, .	—	674 2 10	100 0 0	341 9 6
,, ,, 1st November, 1849,	—	—	—	422 14 11
,, ,, 1st May, 1850, .	752 6 2	573 0 9	100 0 0	409 3 8
,, ,, 1st November, 1850,	500 0 0	—	—	451 12 6
,, ,, 1st May, 1851, .	—	582 0 10	100 0 0	373 16 1
,, ,, 1st November, 1851,	—	—	—	335 7 9
,, ,, 1st May, 1852, .	1,004 12 4	629 2 11	100 0 0	329 3 8
,, ,, 1st November, 1852,	415 7 8	673 1 1	—	335 10 9
,, ,, 1st May, 1853, .	415 7 8	—	100 0 0	318 1 0
,, ,, 1st November, 1853,	—	312 15 2	—	394 1 2
,, ,, 1st May, 1854, .	415 7 8	316 5 1	100 0 0	339 18 9
,, ,, 1st November, 1854,	403 5 5	381 1 0	97 1 8	350 7 10
,, ,, 1st May, 1855, .	—	381 8 8	—	562 2 7
Totals, ...	8,743 5 5	8,103 13 2	1,197 1 8	10,020 2 1

2. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income and Expenditure.

Dr.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1854. Nov. 1.	To Sundries—For Amount of Expenditure these six months, viz. :—		
	Trinity College, ...	403 5 5	
	King's Hospital, ...	381 1 0	
	Christ's Hospital, ...	97 1 8	
	Grammar Schools, ...	350 7 10	
	Dublin Schools, ...	88 5 1	
	English Schools, ...	817 19 5	
	Inspectors' Salaries, ...	18 16 8	
	Incidental Expenses, ...	46 0 1	
	Governors' House, ...	1 11 3	
	Registrars' Salaries, ...	160 0 0	
			2,364 8 5
	To Stock—For excess of Income over Expenditure this half-year, ...	—	2,042 8 9
			4,406 17 2
1855. May 1.	To Sundries—For Amount of Expenditure these six months, viz. :—		
	King's Hospital, ...	381 8 8	
	Grammar Schools, ...	562 2 7	
	Dublin Schools, ...	67 5 6	
	English Schools, ...	1,581 4 3	
	Inspectors' Salaries, ...	20 0 0	
	Incidental Expenses, ...	76 4 3½	
	Governors' House, ...	50 19 3	
	Registrars' Salaries, ...	153 2 1	
			2,892 6 7½
	To Stock—For excess of Income over Expenditure this half-year, ...	—	1,494 2 11½
			4,386 9 7

the defects in the accounts, and that many of the objectionable arrangements which we have noticed, seem to have gradually grown up, and to be attributable to a system of routine, resting on the authority of persons of dignity and influence, who had been active Governors in past times, and whose acquaintance with the affairs of the charity and the trusts of the foundation was supposed to be extensive and accurate.

ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

KING'S HOSPITAL, &c., &c., from the 1st of November, 1843, to the 1st of May, 1855.

Summary of Expenditure.

SCHOOLS, &c.						
Dublin Schools.	English Schools.	Inspectors' Salaries.	Incidental Expenses.	Governors' House.	Registrar's Salary.	Building Grants.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
252 2 3½	2,249 11 6	210 0 0	67 1 7	83 11 0½	—	—
193 5 3	1,161 5 7½	179 10 0	165 17 4	46 9 2	200 0 0	75 0 0
246 8 4	2,276 6 10½	200 0 0	83 6 2	92 11 3½	50 0 0	—
204 15 1	1,205 5 11	319 5 0	56 12 6	65 8 11½	150 0 0	50 0 0
434 16 3	2,098 16 9	270 0 0	91 16 7	110 7 10	100 0 0	—
109 5 8	1,203 14 2	120 0 0	54 10 2	34 15 9	100 0 0	—
290 19 3	1,999 1 6½	225 0 0	133 9 8	100 17 7	50 0 0	—
109 7 10	1,120 14 8	270 0 0	96 10 6	35 0 6	50 0 0	—
235 18 6	1,906 1 10	170 0 0	63 2 10	114 18 4	118 6 8	—
70 18 9	955 10 7	130 0 0	174 2 6	51 14 2	49 8 9	—
114 4 3	1,411 6 8	120 0 0	133 16 0	99 17 11	152 16 2	—
73 0 1	862 1 4	116 13 4	33 18 8	36 5 8	100 0 0	—
67 18 9	1,247 4 11	120 0 0	133 10 2	102 0 10	100 0 0	—
66 0 10	767 15 1	120 0 0	120 19 8½	46 0 8	66 13 4	—
71 15 6	1,188 8 0	20 0 0	196 19 3	82 19 4	160 0 0	—
67 11 1	771 8 5	20 0 0	92 1 3	10 7 11	160 0 0	—
73 8 2	1,261 9 1	20 0 0	172 16 2	61 13 0	160 0 0	—
64 0 0	772 1 3	20 0 0	678 18 5	7 11 6	160 0 0	—
68 4 9	1,245 17 4	20 0 0	58 6 0	66 10 9	213 6 8	—
67 3 9	614 11 4	20 0 0	34 4 6	12 8 8	—	—
126 12 6	1,391 13 7	20 0 0	66 15 3	67 19 4	310 13 4	—
88 5 1	817 19 5	18 16 8	46 0 1	1 11 3	160 0 0	—
67 5 6	1,581 4 3	20 0 0	76 14 3½	50 19 3	153 2 1	—
3,163 7 5½	30,109 10 1½	2,749 5 0	2,831 9 7	1,382 0 8½	2,764 7 0	125 0 0

FOR ONE YEAR (1854–55).

Income and Expenditure.

INCOME.			Cr.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1854. Nov. 1.	By Southern Estates—For Amount of Rents remitted by Agent this half-year,	—	1,900 0 0
	„ Western Estates, Ditto Ditto,	—	2,464 7 9
	„ Government Stock—For Half-year's Dividend due 5th October, 1854,	—	19 1 11
	„ Bank of Ireland—For Rent of Linenhall-street premises, lodged 6th May,	—	23 7 6
			4,406 17 2
Nov. 2.	By Southern Estates—For Amount of James J. Poe's balance of Rent,	—	47 9 7
1855. Jan. 1.	„ Bank of Ireland—For Rent of Linenhall-street premises,	—	12 10 0
Mar. 7.	„ Southern Estates—For Amount received from Edwd. —— on account of Rent,	—	174 18 1
May 1.	„ Bank of Ireland—For Rent of Lombard-street premises,	—	22 7 10
	„ Southern Estates—For Amount of Rent remitted by Agent this half-year,	—	2,590 8 8
	„ Western Estates, Ditto, Ditto,	—	1,256 1 1
	„ Government Stock—For Half-year's Dividends on £6,183 2*s.* 9*d.*, due 5th April, 1855, including £195 7*s.* 8*d.* lodged by M'Causland and Fetherston,	—	282 14 4
			4,386 9 7

Erasmus Smith's Schools.

Balance Sheet.

3. Balance

Dr. Balance.

		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1854. Nov. 1.	To Bank of Ireland,	—	3,725 3 0
	„ Government Stock, our Account,	4,247 18 6	4,060 4 6
	„ Consols, Account of Commissioners of Charitable Donations,	1,100 0 0	1,000 17 5
	„ Government Stock, Account of Lord Redesdale's Charity,	553 16 11	572 6 1
	„ Drainage and Improvement of Southern Estates,	—	2,127 16 0
	„ Edward Galwey, Suspense Account,	—	30 7 2
	„ Drainage and Improvement of Western Estates,	—	70 0 0
	„ Thomas Kearney's Drainage Account,	—	95 14 4
	„ Western Estates, due thereby,	—	1,054 17 9¼
	„ Thomas Kearney, due by him,	—	672 6 3¾
	„ Edward L. Hunt, Agent to Estate of Commissioners of Charitable Donations,	—	49 7 11½
	„ James J. Poe, Agent, due by him,	—	47 9 7
			13,506 10 1½
1855. May 1.	To Bank of Ireland,	—	3,736 15 7
	„ Registrar,	—	1,443 13 8
	„ Government Stock, new 3 per cent., our Account,	6,183 2 9	5,871 15 11
	„ Consols, Account of Commissioners of Charitable Donations,	1,100 0 0	1,000 17 5
	„ Government Stock, Account of Lord Redesdale's Charity,	553 16 11	572 6 1
	„ Drainage and Improvement of Southern Estates,	—	1,920 12 8
	„ Edward Galwey, Suspense Account,	—	30 7 2
	„ Drainage and Improvement of Western Estates,	—	70 0 0
	„ Thomas Kearney's Drainage Account,	—	86 3 0
	„ Edward L. Hunt, due by him,	—	347 11 9¾
	„ Edward L. Hunt, Agent to Estate of Commissioners of Charitable Donations, due by him,	—	41 10 2½
	„ Southern Estates, due thereby,	—	336 14 3½
			15,458 7 9¾

Grammar Schools.

4. Erasmus Smith's Grammar Schools.

Locality of School.	Estimated Annual Value of School Premises.	Annual Salaries paid by Governors.	No. of Pupils School-room suited for.	No. of Boarders Dormitories suited for.	Pupils. Number. Average during current year.	Pupils. Number. On Roll.	Pupils. Religion. United Church.	Pupils. Religion. Roman Catholic	Pupils. Religion. Presbyterian.	Pupils. Religion. Others.	Pupils. Annual Charges. Boarders.	Pupils. Annual Charges. Day Scholars.	Pupils. No. of Free Pupils on Roll.	State of Instruction.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.									£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Leinster: Louth; Drogheda.	64 6 8	100 0 0 Master. 90 0 0 Assistants.	275	27	53	61	59	2	–	–	£31 10s. to £37 16s.	6 6 0	6	Generally satisfactory, but limited.
Munster: Clare; Ennis.	86 4 5	100 0 0 Master. 176 13 4 Assistants.	88	37	43	58	52	6	–	–	42 0 0	10 10 0	9	Very satisfactory.
Tipperary; Tipperary.	273 7 0	100 0 0	144	56	*–	21	–	12	1	–	—	30s. to £6.	7	Unsatisfactory.
Ulster: None.	—	—	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	—	—	–	—
Connaught: Galway; Galway.	282 18 0	100 0 0 Master. 90 0 0 Assistants.	120	50	20	20	17	3	–	–	—	£4 4s. to £6. 6s.	8	Not satisfactory.
Total,†	706 16 1	756 13 4	627	170	116	160	128	23	1	–			30	

* No regular register.

† Exhibitions in Trinity College, £360. *Vide* Tables, vol. iii., p. 731.

SHEET (1854-55.)

ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

Balance Sheet.

CONTRA. Cr.

		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1854. Nov. 1.	By Registrar, due to him,	—	56 18 11
	„ M'Causland and Fetherston, due to them,	—	630 8 8½
	„ Lord Redesdale's Charity, Stock,	572 6 1	
	„ Cash,	17 1 8	
			589 7 9
	„ Commissioners of Charitable Donations,	—	1,000 7 1½
	„ Commissioners for Drainage and Improvement of Land,	—	2,348 3 2
	„ James J. Poe's Dividend Account,	—	113 15 0
	„ Land purchased by Railway Companies, &c.,	—	619 14 5
	„ Edward Galwey, due to him,	—	10 5 11
	„ Southern Estates, due thereto,	—	709 9 11¾
	„ Edward L. Hunt, due to him,	—	1,054 17 9¼
	„ Estate of Commissioners of Charitable Donations, due thereto,	—	49 7 11½
	„ Stock for Net Capital, exclusive of value of Estates,	—	6,323 13 5
			13,506 10 1½
1855. May 1.	By M'Causland and Fetherston, due to them,	—	690 7 0
	„ Lord Redesdale's Charity, Stock,	572 6 1	
	„ Cash,	7 11 3	
			579 17 4
	„ Commissioners of Charitable Donations,	—	1,005 19 8½
	„ James J. Poe's Dividend Account,	—	66 5 5
	„ Commissioners for Drainage and Improvement of Land,	—	2,140 19 10
	„ Land purchased by Railway Companies, &c.,	—	2,431 5 10
	„ Western Estates, due thereto,	—	347 11 9¾
	„ Thomas Kearney, Agent of Southern Estates, due to him,	—	336 14 3½
	„ Estate of Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests, due thereto,	—	41 10 2½
	„ Stock for Net Capital, exclusive of value of Estates,	—	7,817 16 4½
			15,458 7 9¾

5. ERASMUS SMITH'S ENGLISH SCHOOLS.

English Schools.

Locality of School.	No. of Pupils School-room suited for.	Pupils. Number. Average during current year.	Number. On Roll.	Religion. United Church.	Roman Catholic.	Presbyterian.	Others.	State of Instruction.
LEINSTER:								
Carlow.								
*Tullowmagimma; Graignaspidog,	–	–	28	–	–	–	–	Not inspected.†
Dublin.								
Donnybrook, Boys,	166	52	58	31	27	–	–	Not satisfactory.
Donnybrook, Girls,	166	30	57	38	19	–	–	Satisfactory.
Dublin City.								
Brunswick-street, Great, Boys,	84	84	100	90	5	–	5	Very satisfactory.
Brunswick-street, Great, Girls,	52	37	46	32	9	4	1	Satisfactory.
St. Michan's, Parochial, Boys,	228	40	50	50	–	–	–	Not at present satisfactory, but promising.
St. Michan's, Parochial, Girls,	86	40	52	50	2	–	–	Not satisfactory.
Kildare.								
Davidstown; Calverstown,	162	25	47	37	10	–	–	Not altogether satisfactory.
Kill,	56	25	33	31	–	2	–	Not altogether satisfactory.
Kilkenny.								
*Ballinamara, National	–	38	59	–	–	–	–	Not inspected.†
King's County.								
Philipstown,	66	40	61	47	14	–	–	Not satisfactory.
Tullamore; Charleville, Boys,	160	32	40	40	–	–	–	Not satisfactory.
Tullamore; Charleville, Girls,	160	32	46	46	–	–	–	Unsatisfactory.

* These schools have been partly built by the Governors, and are vested in them, but the masters receive no salary from their funds.

† Not inspected, owing to lateness of period when deed of endowment was received.

ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

English Schools.

5. ERASMUS SMITH'S ENGLISH SCHOOLS—*continued.*

Locality of School.	No. of Pupils School-room suited for.	Pupils. Number. Average during current year.	Pupils. Number. On Roll.	Pupils. Religion. United Church.	Pupils. Religion. Roman Catholic	Pupils. Religion. Presbyterian.	Pupils. Religion. Others.	State of Instruction.
LEINSTER—*continued.*								
Longford.								
*Columbkill; Rathmore,	85	33	65	65	–	–	–	Not satisfactory.
Granard,	127	20	33	21	12	–	–	Pupils absent.
Killashee, Boys,	84	16	30	28	2	–	–	Satisfactory, but limited.
Longford; Templemichael,	67	30	30	30	–	–	–	Satisfactory.
Louth.								
Ardee, Boys,	106	32	46	20	26	–	–	Satisfactory.
Carlingford; Omeath,	87	40	62	58	4	–	–	Unsatisfactory.
Collon, Boys,	96	18	23	11	12	–	–	Unsatisfactory.
Collon, Girls,	96	43	51	41	10	–	–	Very satisfactory.
Dundalk, Boys,	332	51	90	74	6	10	–	Not satisfactory.
Dundalk, Girls,	141	30	66	50	6	10	–	Very unsatisfactory.
Meath.								
Ardmurchan; Hayes,	53	16	27	27	–	–	–	Satisfactory.
Kildalkey,	40	16	19	16	3	–	–	Satisfactory.
Slane	135	13	31	12	19	–	–	Satisfactory.
Westmeath.								
Killucan,	96	19	29	25	2	2	–	Unsatisfactory.
Wexford.								
Enniscorthy, Boys,	208	53	68	64	4	–	–	Satisfactory.
Enniscorthy, Girls,	87	42	51	51	–	–	–	Very satisfactory.
Ferns,	146	43	60	60	–	–	–	Not satisfactory, but senior pupils absent.
Gorey, Boys,	175	29	42	42	–	–	–	Satisfactory.
Gorey, Girls,	126	30	46	46	–	–	–	Very satisfactory.
*Kilbride; Ballymore,	136	17	22	22	–	–	–	No pupils present.
Newtownbarry, Boys,	122	31	45	45	–	–	–	Satisfactory.
Newtownbarry, Girls,	96	23	35	35	–	–	–	Satisfactory.
Templeshambo, Boys,	67	16	40	19	21	–	–	Closed on account of sickness.
Templeshambo, Girls,	53	13	37	16	21	–	–	Closed on account of sickness.
Wexford, Boys,	120	40	58	56	2	–	–	Satisfactory.
Wexford Girls	120	30	40	40	–	–	–	Satisfactory,
Wicklow.								
Aghold; Coolkenno,	113	31	64	61	3	–	–	Not satisfactory.
Delgany; Windgates, Boys,	85	33	41	41	–	–	–	Closed, master being ill.
Kilpipe,	58	27	40	32	8	–	–	Satisfactory.
Kiltegan,	80	33	52	52	–	–	–	Satisfactory, but limited.
Rathdrum, Boys,	93	27	43	43	–	–	–	Not satisfactory.
Rathdrum, Girls,	93	27	48	48	–	–	–	Closed for vacation.
	4,909	1,397	2,111	1,743	247	28	6	
MUNSTER:								
Clare.								
*Kilmaley; Gortagarriffe,	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Closed; master dead.
*Kilnaboy; Curofin,	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Not inspected †
Kilrush,	174	27	36	32	4	–	–	Very satisfactory.
Cork.								
*Ballymoney; Ballinacargy,	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Not inspected.†
Bandon; Kilbrogan, Church Education Society's Model and Training School for Munster.								
1. Erasmus Smith's English, Boys,	113	46	65	65	–	–	–	Satisfactory.
2. Erasmus Smith's English, Girls,	41	31	64	64	–	–	–	Very satisfactory.
*Coachford; Coolacullig,	–	–	31	–	–	–	–	Not inspected.†
Innishannon,	123	25	25	22	3	–	–	Satisfactory, but very elementary.
Kilmeen, Parochial,	75	16	31	31	–	–	–	Unsatisfactory.
*Newmarket, Parochial,	85	‡	35	30	5	–	–	Satisfactory.
Kerry.								
Tarbert, Boys,	120	22	26	23	3	–	–	Satisfactory, but limited.
Tarbert, Girls	41	26	34	30	4	–	–	Satisfactory, but limited.
Tralee,	260	36	40	36	–	–	–	Satisfactory.
Limerick.								
New Pallas, Pallasgreen,	106	14	24	19	5	–	–	Very unsatisfactory.
Tipperary.								
Ballingarry, Parochial,	72	13	9	7	2	–	–	Very unsatisfactory.
Cahir, Boys,	116	‡–	4	2	2	–	–	Unsatisfactory.
Cahir, Girls,	116	‡–	24	2	11	–	–	Unsatisfactory.

* These schools have been partly built by the Governors, and are vested in them, but the masters receive no salary from their funds.

† Not inspected, owing to lateness of period when deed of endowment was received.

‡ No regular register.

5. Erasmus Smith's English Schools—*continued.*

Locality of School.	No. of Pupils School-room suited for.	Pupils. Number. Average during current year.	Pupils. Number. On Roll.	Pupils. Religion. United Church.	Pupils. Religion. Roman Catholic.	Pupils. Religion. Presbyterian.	Pupils. Religion. Others.	State of Instruction.
Munster—*continued.*								
Tipperary—continued.								
Kilcooley,	70	30	62	23	5	–	–	Unsatisfactory.
Roscrea,	226	34	37	23	1	–	–	Unsatisfactory.
Templemore,	135	9	13	9	1	–	–	Very unsatisfactory.
Tipperary,	176	†–	29	18	6	–	–	Satisfactory, but elementary.
	2,049	329	589	436	52	–	–	
Ulster:								
Antrim.								
*Aghoghill; Craigs, Parochial, Boys,	84	38	59	17	–	42	–	Satisfactory.
*Aghoghill; Craigs, Parochial, Girls,	42	22	57	17	1	39	–	Satisfactory.
Antrim; Bow-lane, Boys,	135	24	49	24	1	24	–	Satisfactory.
Antrim; Bow-lane, Girls,	135	22	50	20	2	28	–	Unsatisfactory.
Ballymoney,	140	36	52	31	6	15	–	Satisfactory.
Ballyrashane; Ballywatt,	96	26	42	12	–	30	–	Not satisfactory.
Billy; Eagry,	133	58	82	38	–	44	–	Very satisfactory.
Dunluce; Bonnyclassagh,	85	28	46	17	–	29	–	Satisfactory.
Templepatrick; Craigarogan,	260	26	43	–	–	43	–	Satisfactory.
Armagh.								
*Armagh; Aughavilly, Boys,	50	14	60	20	24	16	–	Satisfactory.
*Armagh; Aughavilly, Girls,	50	11	45	19	10	16	–	Satisfactory.
*Keady; Hermitage,	–	–	–	80	–	–	–	Not inspected.‡
Kilmore; Mullavilly, Boys,	114	42	64	54	7	3	–	Satisfactory.
Kilmore; Mullavilly, Girls,	114	37	57	44	10	3	–	Satisfactory.
Loughgall, Boys,	112	31	50	35	12	3	–	Satisfactory.
*Loughgall; Kinnigoe,	68	20	43	16	6	21	–	Satisfactory, but limited.
Loughgilly, Boys,	111	25	50	20	1	29	–	Satisfactory.
Lurgan, Boys,	§234	89	149	113	26	10	–	Satisfactory.
Lurgan, Girls,	–	74	117	85	24	8	–	Satisfactory.
Newtownhamilton, Boys,	66	46	81	53	5	23	–	Very satisfactory.
Newtownhamilton, Girls,	66	30	49	27	5	17	–	Satisfactory.
*Newtownhamilton; Tullyvallon,	–	–	53	–	–	–	–	Not inspected.
Richhill, Boys,	104	41	62	50	7	2	3	Satisfactory.
Richhill, Girls,	76	45	69	54	3	8	4	Satisfactory.
Tynan,	109	53	98	81	–	17	–	Satisfactory.
*Tynan; Derryhaugh,	–	–	90	–	–	–	–	Not inspected.‡
Cavan.								
Belturbet,	106	45	83	61	21	–	1	Unsatisfactory.
Donegal.								
Buncrana,	78	34	60	48	12	–	–	Satisfactory.
Culdaff; Grousehall,	128	10	16	10	–	6	–	Very satisfactory.
Milford,	63	65	92	11	23	58	–	Very satisfactory.
Mountcharles,	85	32	55	40	12	3	–	Satisfactory.
Stranorlar,	138	24	48	36	3	9	–	Satisfactory.
Down.								
Ardglass, Boys,	96	44	62	33	27	2	–	Satisfactory.
Ardglass, Girls,	60	26	46	8	36	2	–	Satisfactory.
*Ballymacarrett, Parochial,	–	–	72	–	–	–	–	Not inspected.‡
Comber,	198	66	100	38	4	58	–	Satisfactory.
Drumbeg; Hill Hall, Boys,	106	34	48	11	3	34	–	Not satisfactory.
*Drumbo, Parochial, Boys,	61	10	17	12	1	4	–	No pupils present.
*Drumbo, Parochial, Girls,	61	5	15	13	–	2	–	No pupils present.
Grey Abbey; Mountstewart,	120	109	192	15	4	173	–	Satisfactory.
Kilmood,	113	34	56	16	2	38	–	Satisfactory.
Newtownards, Boys,	171	92	129	24	1	104	–	Satisfactory.
Newtownards, Girls,	126	77	114	28	2	84	–	Satisfactory.
Seaforde,	151	32	42	20	13	9	–	Satisfactory.
Fermanagh.								
Derryvullen; Castlearchdall,	140	25	35	35	–	–	–	Very satisfactory.
*Enniskillen, Clabby,	–	–	52	–	–	–	–	Not inspected.‡
Londonderry.								
Ballyaghran; Agherton, Boys,	80	35	44	3	1	38	2	Satisfactory.
Cumber, Lower, Parochial,	86	42	70	16	6	48	–	Satisfactory.
Cumber, Upper,	110	37	57	29	10	18	–	Satisfactory.
Faughanvale; Muff,	80	58	60	21	36	3	–	Unsatisfactory.
Lissan,	155	51	81	31	27	23	–	Very satisfactory.
Newtownlimavady; Pound-lane, Parochial, Boys.	116	35	50	30	2	18	–	Very satisfactory.
Newtownlimavady; Pound-lane, Parochial, Girls.	116	20	37	20	3	14	–	Very satisfactory.
Templemore; Eden-Ballymore, Boys,	138	50	65	48	2	15	–	Satisfactory.
*Templemore; Eden-Ballymore, Girls,	138	37	53	30	–	23	–	Pupils not present.
Tyrone.								
Badoney, Lower; Ruskey,	104	55	47	20	22	5	–	Satisfactory.
Ballyclog,	128	21	29	14	3	12	–	Master and pupils absent.

* These schools have been partly built by the Governors, and are vested in them, but the masters receive no salary from their funds.

† No regular register.

‡ Not inspected, owing to lateness of period when deed of endowment was received.

§ Including Girls' school.

Erasmus Smith's Schools.

English Schools.

5. Erasmus Smith's English Schools—*continued.*

Locality of School.	No. of Pupils School-room suited for.	Pupils. Number. Average during current year.	Pupils. Number. On Roll.	Pupils. Religion. United Church.	Pupils. Religion. Roman Catholic.	Pupils. Religion. Presbyterian.	Pupils. Religion. Others.	State of Instruction.
Ulster—*continued.* *Tyrone*—continued.								
Camus,	68	26	35	6	4	25	–	Satisfactory, but elementary.
Clogher; Beltany, Boys,	130	45	108	65	17	26	–	Elementary.
Clogher; Beltany, Girls,	130	50	104	70	14	20	–	Satisfactory.
Dungannon, Boys,	70	28	42	30	2	10	–	Satisfactory.
Dungannon, Girls,	70	22	39	25	–	14	–	Not satisfactory.
Kildress; Drumshambo,	80	35	47	18	7	22	–	Pupils absent for vacation.
Killieshel, Boys,	56	48	35	8	24	–	3	Pupils absent.
Killieshel, Girls,	36	15	30	5	17	–	8	Unsatisfactory.
	6,276	2,312	3,984	1,875	511	1,390	21	
Connaught: *Galway.*								
Galway, Boys,	136	16	21	21	–	–	–	Not satisfactory.
Galway, Girls,	113	10	12	9	–	–	3	Unsatisfactory.
Mayo.								
Ballisakeery; Mullafarry	84	15	31	17	12	2	–	Very unsatisfactory.
Killala,	70	17	25	23	2	–	–	Very satisfactory.
Sligo.								
Dromard, Boys,	96	20	27	18	9	–	–	Pupils not examined.
Dromard, Girls,	70	22	32	23	9	–	–	Satisfactory.
Drumcliffe; Munincan,	60	*–	36	36	–	–	–	Very unsatisfactory.
Sligo, Boys,	146	70	96	49	33	–	14	Not quite satisfactory.
Sligo, Girls,	133	33	46	43	–	–	3	No pupils present.
	908	203	326	239	65	2	20	
Total,	14142	4,241	7,010	4,293	875	1,420	47	

* No regular register.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS.

Incorporated Society's Schools.

These schools were formerly known by the designation of Protestant Charter Schools. They owe their origin to a society that was incorporated in the year 1733, on the petition of the principal nobility, clergy, and gentry of Ireland, for the purpose of maintaining "a sufficient number of English Protestant schools, wherein the children of the Irish natives [might] be instructed in the English tongue, and the fundamental principles of true religion." The trust of the charter accordingly was to apply, under the regulation of the society, the annual income of its endowment to the establishment and support of English Protestant schools in Ireland, for the instruction, by masters appointed by the society, of children of Roman Catholics, and other poor natives of Ireland, in English, writing and arithmetic; in husbandry and housewifery, or in trades, manufactures, or other manual occupations; in the Holy Scriptures, and in the principles of the Protestant Established religion. The society was also to provide school requisites, diet and lodging, for such poor children as it should judge proper, until they should be fit to be apprenticed to trades.

The society received a large amount in private bequests and donations, annual grants from Parliament, and the proceeds of a tax on hawkers and pedlars.

Vide p. 14, *supra.* From 1733 till 1784, the charter schools were noticed in nearly every speech by the Lord Lieutenant from the throne, and also in nearly every address presented by the Irish Parliament in reply.

Vide p. 16, *supra.* Mr. Howard, the celebrated philanthropist, in his visit to Ireland, in 1784, discovered great inaccuracies in the statements of the society as to the number of their pupils, and serious abuses existing in their institutions.

Com. Ir. Educ. Inq. 1 Rep. 1825, p. 7. Irish Commons Journal, vol. xii. App. p. dccccx.

He published an account which led to considerable controversy; and after a second visit by him, and an inspection of the schools by Sir Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, Inspector of Prisons in Ireland, the state of the schools was brought before a Committee of the Irish House of Commons. The report of the Committee contains a *resumé* of the evidence of the different persons examined, including Mr. Howard and Sir Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, Richard Vincent, Esq., one of the

Committee of the Incorporated Society, and their Secretary, Mr. Gibbons. Mr. Howard had taken with him, on his tour of inspection, an account of the charter schools published in an appendix to a sermon preached before the society, by the Bishop of Raphoe, in 1781; and he found that the attendance at the schools was but a third of the number stated in the Appendix, and that the condition of the children in general was wretched, both physically and morally. This was confirmed by Sir Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, whose reports led to the dismissal of several masters. INCORPORATED SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS.

The Commissioners of 1791 reported that the fund for the support of the society, including parliamentary grants, amounted to £20,105 a-year; and that the total number of children in the charter schools, exclusive of the Ranelagh Schools, was 1,718, of whom 918 were boys; 537, girls; and 263, infants. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. pp. 357, 372.

The Commissioners observed that, "notwithstanding the miserable state of a great majority of the schools, according to Mr. Howard's testimony, yet it appears from the reports of the local committees from forty schools, that there were but three unfavourable, two of which were only so in respect to the clothing of the children; and that of the reports made from thirty-five of the schools, by the catechist visitors, there was but one unfavourable, and one but partly favourable." Ibid. p. 357.

The Commissioners of 1791 also stated that it appeared from the testimony and report of Mr. Howard, "who had visited the four nurseries and all the charter schools (two only excepted), that in most of the establishments the instruction, cleanliness, and health of the children had been most grossly neglected; that they had not been allowed sufficient food, clothing, or other necessaries; that in many of these schools they were half starved, half naked, and covered with cutaneous disorders, the effects of filth and negligence, while in some of those the children of the masters and mistresses appeared fresh, clean, and in good health. This account of the wretched condition of these schools and nurseries was confirmed by further evidence, and also by the reports of some of the Commissioners who have visited several of the schools and nurseries; and upon the whole it appeared that of all the establishments—forty-four in number—not more than five or six were properly managed." Ibid.

The Commissioners then recommended that the number of charter schools should be reduced, and the provincial nurseries suppressed,—that the parents of the children should have free access to them; and, lastly, that a certain number of the most promising boys from the parish schools might be recommended by the Committee of Fifteen, for admission into the charter schools. Ibid. p. 359.

The Commissioners also recommended the reduction of the annual grant to the Incorporated Society; that £1,924 should be applied towards the parochial schools; and that the sum of £1,900, which would be saved by the abolition of the nurseries, should be applied to the support of the diocesan schools. Ibid.

The suggestions made by the Commissioners of 1791, in the case of the Protestant charter schools, seem not to have been attended to.

In the year 1803, Protestants were admitted as pupils to the charter schools for the first time since 1775–6, when the society passed resolutions to confine the admission to Roman Catholics, a measure, indeed, which is stated to have been in accordance with the general practice of the society previously. Com. of Educ. Rep. 1808, pp. 19, 38.

The Commissioners of Education Inquiry in 1808, reported that the system of separating children from their parents, or of transplanting them, as it was called, still prevailed; that the nurseries were still continued; that the number of children maintained in the schools had increased since 1791, when it was 1,798 to 2,187, and that the funds placed at the disposal of the society had increased from £20,105 to £30,157. Ibid. pp. 20, 32.

The Commissioners of 1808, from their inquiries, were led to the conclusion that the schools were in a very satisfactory state, forming a contrast to the condition in which former inquiries had found them, and calculated to excite an expectation that a higher degree of improvement would be attained. The Commissioners, however, made some suggestions very similar to those of the Commissioners of 1791. They proposed that some of the schools should be suppressed, and the nurseries converted into schools. In 1818, a letter was addressed by Mr. Grant, afterwards Lord Glenelg, the then Chief Secretary of Ireland, to the Incorporated Society, intimating that the amount of their grant would be diminished. Ibid. p. 22. Ibid. p. 23.

In 1820, the society took the opinion of the Attorney-General, as to whether they were at liberty to receive Roman Catholics in their day schools without

INCORPORATED SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS.

instructing them in the Protestant religion, but he was of opinion that they could not.

After 1825, it was very difficult to induce Roman Catholic children to attend, and, from that time, the nature of the schools was changed. From being schools for the conversion of Roman Catholics, they became schools for the education of members of the United Church.

The Commissioners of Education Inquiry, in their Report for 1825, again disclosed the disastrous state of the charter schools, and recommended the discontinuance of the parliamentary grants. These were accordingly diminished from £19,500 in 1826, to £5,750 in 1832, when they were finally withdrawn.

Committee on Foundation Schools, Rep. 1838, p. 7.

In 1839, the society, at the suggestion of the Rev. Elias Thackeray, one of its members, adopted a plan by which children are elected on the foundation of the institution by means of their superior answering at a competitive examination. This election is restricted to children who come from some of the districts in which the society possesses estates, who are educated for at least one year at a school in which the Scriptures are daily read, and who are recommended by their parish ministers. No child is eligible for election who has been previously attending any school of public legal foundation—a rule which has the effect of excluding any child coming from the National schools and other mixed schools in Ireland, and also children educated in the workhouses.

Ev. 23233.

Ev. 23258–64.

The course of instruction has also undergone a change. The society was established by charter, amongst other things for communicating industrial instruction; but we find from the evidence that, this has almost entirely ceased, and that the system of apprenticeships has also been discontinued.

Ev. 23292.

Some less important alterations have also been made—such as discontinuing the practice of charging masters for the labour of children, of giving bounties to well-conducted apprentices, and of giving marriage portions. The nurseries, and the system of transplanting the children were abandoned.

Ev. 23305.

It appears, by a return from the Incorporated Society, that they have at present under their care, eight boarding schools and twelve day schools, exclusive of the parochial schools at Ramoan and Innishannon, towards the support of which they contribute. We visited some of the day schools, and visited or received evidence as to all the boarding schools. They were also inspected by our Assistant Commissioners.

BOARDING INSTITUTIONS OF THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY.

Athlone Ranelagh Institution for Boys, County of Roscommon.

In 1760 the estates which were granted by the Earl of Ranelagh for the support of charity schools at Roscommon and Athlone, were, by Act of Parliament, vested in the Incorporated Society. The grant was made in 1708, and the Act recites, that to that time the charitable intentions of the Earl of Ranelagh had not been carried out. The original intention was, that two free schools should be erected at Athlone, and two at Roscommon, that each should be provided with a chapel and a dwelling-house for teachers; and that twenty Protestant boys, and as many girls, should be educated gratuitously at the free schools in each of the two towns. It was directed that the schoolmasters should be in holy orders, and that both the master and mistress should either be English, or of English extraction, and Protestants.

1 Geo. III. c. 3.

At present there are upon this foundation two schools—one for boys at Athlone, and the other for girls at Roscommon.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 716.

We received evidence respecting the Athlone school at our public court at Roscommon, and examined the master, the visiting manager, and other witnesses. A complaint was preferred in evidence before us as to the right of admission of boys into the Ranelagh School; it was urged that the right was confined to the poor of Athlone, but that children were received from all parts of Ireland. It seemed to us, however, on investigation, that the complaint was without foundation. We ascertained that the society had acted in this matter on the opinion of counsel, given in June, 1839, to the effect that "children might be selected by the Incorporated Society from any locality for admission into schools on the Ranelagh foundation, the trusts the society are bound to carry out being those declared in the private Act of Parliament vesting the Ranelagh estates in them, not those in the original deed of grant."

Ev. 7007.

Ev. 7018.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports favourably as to the condition of this schoolhouse, which, unlike that of the corresponding establishment at Roscommon,

is provided with a separate infirmary. The attendance at the time of inspection was very large, consisting of seventy-one out of seventy-six on the roll, fifty-six being boarders, and eighteen of these free. The free pupils are nominated by the incumbents of fourteen neighbouring parishes, and subjected, as in the other schools of the Incorporated Society, to a competitive examination. Of the day pupils three are Roman Catholics, for our Assistant Commissioner states that there is no interference with members of any religious denomination, unless received as boarders. The master receives from the Incorporated Society a salary of £100, and has besides some other emoluments. His two assistants are paid £35 a-year each. With respect to the state of education, it is noticed that the pupils answered unsatisfactorily in science, and that classical instruction likewise was backward. In the ordinary branches of English education, the pupils were better prepared, and much care appears to have been taken in teaching them to write, in which most of them succeeded remarkably well.

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Ev. 7077.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 720.

Our Assistant-Commissioner thought the arrangement under which classical studies were introduced into a school of this description an unfortunate one. The English studies of the classical pupils suffer, there not being any compensating advantages in the soundness of their classical instruction.

Celbridge Institution for Girls, County of Kildare.

The Celbridge institution was endowed by the Right Honourable William Connolly, in the reign of George I., and was at first intended exclusively for the benefit of the children of the tenantry on his estate. Subsequently the amount of the endowment was increased, and the objects of it more extended. In 1809, Lady Louisa Connolly, the surviving trustee of the bequest, transferred the management of the Celbridge school to the Incorporated Society.

Com. Educ. Rep. 1812, p. 297.

Our Assistant-Commissioner reports that, of fifty-eight pupils on the roll, fifty-five were present. Thirty of the free pupils are nominated by Mr. Connolly, and thirty-two by the Incorporated Society. The pupils, when nominated, must all be members of the Established Church. Those nominated by Mr. Connolly generally come from his own estates in Donegal, Westmeath, and Kildare; and those nominated by the Society are selected by examination from the Scriptural schools of the county of Kildare, and two from the Society's girls' schools at Trim and Stradbally. The parents of the free pupils are farmers, labourers, and servants. Our Assistant-Commissioner states that he was pleased with the reading of the girls, and with their answering in geography; their writing also was good, but in grammar they were deficient.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 135.

We are of opinion that the standard of instruction in this school ought to be raised. It might then be advantageously used as a training school for schoolmistresses.

Dundalk Institution for Boys, County of Louth.

The landed estate attached to this institution was the first of the kind held by the Incorporated Society. Mrs. Anne Hamilton left an estate of about 360 statute acres, in the county of Down, and a house in Dundalk, for the support of a school. The trustees, in 1738, conveyed the trust property to the Incorporated Society. At first this institution was a boarding school for girls, but in 1835 and 1839 changes were introduced, and at present it is a boarding and day school for boys.

Com. Educ. Rep. 1808, p. 16, Ev. 9821, 12254.

Our Assistant-Commissioner reports an attendance of eighty-two pupils, of whom seventy-three were boarders, thirty-nine of these being free. The master receives £100 a-year, with salaries for assistants, allowances for fuel and other requisites, besides a house and garden rent free.

Our Assistant Commissioner also reports that the pupils are well acquainted with the ordinary departments of English education, but that it is not satisfactory to find only two pupils learning book-keeping in an establishment so numerously attended by the inhabitants of a commercial town like Dundalk.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 182.

Farra Institution for Boys, County of Westmeath.

The endowment attached to this school was made by the Rev. William Wilson, the nephew of the founder of Wilson's hospital. In 1740, in a codicil to his will by which his property was left to the Incorporated Society, he directed that

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a school should be built at Farra, in the county of Westmeath; and in 1758 the school was established.

Ev. 13440,23277–89.

At our public court at Mullingar we examined the master of this school; and it appeared, from his evidence, that the system of agricultural instruction which had been formerly pursued in this institution proved unsuccessful, and that it was now almost abandoned.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that the number of pupils, which in 1826 had been one hundred and eleven, is now forty-one, of whom thirty-eight were present. These thirty-eight are boarders, and thirty of them are free. The free pupils are admitted by competitive examination, the candidates being taken from the Scriptural schools of Westmeath. Though originally an agricultural school, the Farra institution does not now differ from an ordinary English school of the Incorporated Society, except that the pupils have an opportunity of voluntarily acquiring such a knowledge of agriculture and horticulture as may be obtained from the person who manages the farm attached to the school, but there is no obligation to study them imposed on the pupils. Considered as an English school, this institution is in a very efficient state. The pupils answered creditably in history, geography, grammar, and arithmetic.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 228.

Kilkenny, Pococke Institution for Boys, County of Kilkenny.

The Pococke Institution, at Kilkenny, was endowed in 1765, under the will of Dr. Pococke, Bishop of Ossory, who, subject to certain charges thereby made, left all his estates, both real and personal, to the Incorporated Society, "for founding a school for Papist boys to be bred to linen-weaving, and instructed in the principles of the Protestant religion"—"and if any other religion should at any time be established than the Protestant religion," then he left "the whole for such time to St. Patrick's Hospital, in Dublin, for lunatics," "to revert to the said society whenever it should be re-established."

Our Assistant-Commissioner reports that the founder's directions, as to industrial training, are not carried into effect; and that the rule, confining the admission to the children of Roman Catholic parents, is not observed. The society, however, took the opinion of counsel, in 1839, by whom they were advised that these changes were legal.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 150.

He also reports very favourably as to the state of instruction, particularly as regards history, geography, arithmetic, and algebra, the answering in which, he mentions, was such as he had rarely met with. The number of pupils present when he inspected, was twenty-six—all boarders, and eighteen of them free. The free pupils are selected, by competitive examination, by the Incorporated Society from certain specified Scriptural schools. The master's salary from the society is £60, and he is allowed also for fuel and some other requisites; and he has, besides, some land attached to the schoolhouse. A monitor, at £10 a-year, is attached to the school.

Ev. 23253.

Ev. 23266.

Primrose Grange Institution for Boys, County of Sligo.

In 1721, the Rev. Edward Nicholson granted a rent-charge of £40, a house and half an acre of land, for the support of a free school at Primrose Grange, which has subsequently become possessed of other endowments. The Commissioners of 1807–12 notice the inefficient state of the school at the time of their report, as well as the recommendation of the Bishop of Elphin, one of the trustees of the charity, that the endowment should be vested in the Incorporated Society. The master receives a salary of £50, and his assistant £30; and he has other emoluments, including apartments, and land at a moderate rent.

Com. Educ. Rep. 1812, p. 310.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that the state of the school is generally satisfactory. There were thirty-six pupils on the roll, thirteen of whom were boarders, and twenty-three were day pupils. Twenty-two were present, thirteen of whom were boarders, and nine day pupils. There were eleven free pupils present, all either boarders or foundation pupils. It is proposed to increase this number to sixteen.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 73.

Roscommon Ranelagh Institution for Girls, County of Roscommon.

The clergyman, who is the visiting manager of the Ranelagh Institution for Girls, and acts as catechist, was examined at our public court at Roscommon, and gave some information as to the course of industrial training pursued.

Ev. 7121–6.

Our Assistant Commissioner states the attendance as twenty-five, out of

twenty-nine on the roll, all boarders, and all free but three. The mistress receives £52 5*s.* from the Incorporated Society, and has also other emoluments, including apartments, fuel, and other requisites. The assistant is also paid £10 by the society, and a similar sum is allowed for a monitress. The state of instruction is noticed by the Assistant Commissioner as satisfactory. The sanitary arrangements of the school are defective, as regards the want of an infirmary. The lavatory arrangements, likewise, are not to be approved of, and are noticed by our Assistant Commissioner as bad and uncleanly.

INCORPORATED SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 721.

Santry Institution for Boys, County of Dublin.

This is the most important of the schools under the management of the Incorporated Society, being that to which they transfer pupils selected by competition from their other schools, and in which places are obtained as a species of exhibition. It also serves as a school for training masters. We made a special visit to this school, and examined very carefully into its nature and constitution.

Our Assistant Commissioner, who inspected the school, reports favourably as to the state of instruction, except as regards punctuation and orthography. The internal accommodation of the building is defective, and, altogether, the domestic arrangements of the institution not in that superior condition which, considering its reputation, and the large amount of the funds at the disposal of the society, might justly be expected.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 46.

DAY SCHOOLS OF THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY.

Arklow Boys' School, County of Wicklow.

We have elsewhere noticed the history of the endowment of this school, previous to its transfer to the Incorporated Society.

Vide p. 179, *infra*.

Cashel Boys' School—Cashel Girls' School, County of Tipperary.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that he found these establishments in a cleanly and orderly condition. The roll in the boys' school exhibited an attendance of thirteen boys, of whom twelve were present. These were generally young, so that much could not be expected from them; but even in the department of education suited to their tender years, they proved very deficient. The master had received a classical education, and seemed better fitted to impart education of a superior grade than that of the very elementary description required for his school.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 382.

The girls' school was better attended, the number on the roll being twenty-three, and of those present eighteen. They were more advanced in education, and answering creditably in most of the subjects they were learning, and their writing was remarkably good. In both schools the children seemed to be treated with great kindness, and the schoolrooms were neatly kept. The master of the boys' school receives a salary of £35 out of the funds of the school, and has a house rent-free. The mistress of the girls' school has £20 salary from the same source. In both schools nearly all the children are free, the boys, however, being supposed to pay at the rate of 1*d.* a-week, which, however, only three or four of them in fact did; only four of the girls paid any thing, their payment being but 1*s.* 6*d.* a-quarter. The funds supporting these schools amount to £71 18*s.* 6*d.* a-year, of which only £27 13*s.* 10*d.* is paid by the Incorporated Society, the rest being paid partly out of a fund in the hands of the Town Commissioners, and partly by the bishop of the diocese, and the dean and chapter. The schools are inspected by the Church Education Society, as well as by the Incorporated Society.

Clonmel Boys' School, County of Tipperary.

At our public court at Clonmel, we examined the master of this school.

Ev. 928.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that the number of pupils on the roll is twenty-six, all of them being free, and of whom seventeen were present. This school is united with the parochial school, and the master in consequence receives from other sources an addition to his emoluments from the Incorporated Society. Our Assistant-Commissioner reports that though he found the master a person of intelligence, yet the state of education in the school appeared below that usually to be met with in parochial schools of the better class. The pupils were deficient in the first elements of English education; and those who had commenced Euclid had made but small progress.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 366, 383.

INCORPORATED SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS.

Establishment of a New School in Dublin by the Incorporated Society.

At a late period of our inquiries we received a communication from the Incorporated Society, announcing their intention to found a large Day School in Dublin, under their control and management, on a principle entirely new, in the management of their affairs—that of giving an English and Commercial Education. This school has been lately established, the course of instruction in it being English and the sciences, at a charge of £4, combined with French and German, at a charge of £2. There are no free pupils and no boarders. The pupils are chiefly the sons of persons of the middle class, from shopkeepers up to members of learned professions, and all belong to the United Church. The school was not inspected by our Assistant-Commissioner in time to allow of its being noticed in the Tables of Schools and Endowments; but he reports that the state of instruction and general condition of the school are satisfactory; and he considers the Incorporated Society entitled to much credit for this attempt on their part to afford to the middle classes of Dublin an opportunity of procuring for their children, on reasonable terms, a superior English and mercantile education, combined with instruction in modern languages. We are informed that the Committee took very great pains to select a properly qualified master, whose knowledge and capacity as a teacher were tested by a strict examination.

Concluding Observations on the Incorporated Society's Schools.

Our Assistant Commissioners notice the Incorporated Society's Schools in their General Reports. Mr. Crawford expresses an unfavourable opinion of the English day schools which he inspected. He says:—

Appendix, p. 3.

"The only division of these schools which came under my notice were English day schools, and I believe, with one exception, I reported unfavourably of them. Many of the observations I have made in reference to the second division of schools on the foundation of Erasmus Smith, apply to these schools, and I shall not repeat them. They are principally those which have reference to salary and locality, and the requirements as to the religion of the master, and the reading of the Scriptures. But, in addition, I would observe as to these schools, that I believe I did not find a single case in which the Society had ascertained, by a special examination, the qualifications of the master, or had required any course of training. The inspections are annual, but several months' notice is given beforehand, and during this period the attention of the master is principally directed to the preparation of a few of the cleverest of the pupils for an examination for what are called exhibitions, or scholarships, in the boarding-schools of the Society, to the neglect of all the others who, from age or want of intelligence, are not qualified to compete at the examinations. The master is generally presented with a gratuity for good answering for scholarships."

Ibid. p. 7.

Mr. Abraham says—"With two exceptions, I found the schools of the Incorporated Society in good working order."

Dr. M'Blain praises the system of selecting the boarders by competitive examination. He objects to the rule which limits candidates to pupils of Scriptural schools; and he thinks there ought to be a paid Inspector. He says:—

Ibid. p. 10.

"The schools in my district belonging to this Society were the Santry Training School, the Dundalk Institution, the Celbridge Female Institution, a male day school in Arklow, another in Dublin, and male and female day schools in Trim.

"The Incorporated Society is entitled to much credit for the excellent system of competitive examinations which it has introduced, and by the result of which the admission of free boarders on the foundation of the three first-named institutions is determined. The usefulness, however, of these establishments would be considerably enhanced by the abolition of the rule which restricts the candidates for admission to the pupils of those schools in which Scriptural instruction is daily given to all the children in attendance.

"The effect of this regulation is to exclude from the competition all those children, no matter what their Scriptural knowledge may be, who have been educated at the National or other schools, in which Scriptural instruction is not enforced on all who attend the same.

"There is no paid Inspector appointed by the Incorporated Society to visit their schools, that duty being gratuitously discharged by an annual deputation of the Society. I think, however, it would tend to increase the efficiency of these schools if a competent person were appointed and paid, on whom would devolve the duty of regularly inspecting, two or three times every year, the various establishments of the Society, and reporting to the general Board his opinion thereon.

"There are, no doubt, at the present time on the Board of the Society several gentlemen of high educational attainments, and it is very creditable to them, that they devote a considerable portion of their time each year to the arduous labour of conducting the examinations held in the different schools of the Society. It cannot, however, be calculated as a matter of certainty, that there will always be on the Board a sufficient number of members able and willing to discharge this duty, for which no remuneration is allowed; and even if it were otherwise, it would not supersede the necessity of employing a paid Inspector, responsible to the Board for the manner in which he performs the duty assigned to him. The disadvantage attending the inspection, as conducted by the annual deputation from the Society, is, that full notice of their intention to visit must be given to the schoolmaster beforehand, so that he has ample time to prepare for their reception; whereas a paid Inspector might visit the school with or without notice, as deemed advisable." INCORPORATED SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS.

We have given, at the end of this portion of our Report, a table showing the number of pupils and the state of instruction in both the boarding institutions and day schools of the Incorporated Society. We have also given a statement, as returned to us, of the income and expenditure of the Society for the year ending 31st March, 1855.

The estates of the Incorporated Society fall under two heads; those attached to particular schools, and those applicable to the general purposes of the Society The former are given in the Tables of Schools and Endowments, and consist of 12,927 acres, and produce a net income of £2,988 a-year. The general estates of the Society are given in the Table of General Endowments, and consist of 4,303 acres, and produce a net income of £2,147. The Society has also £98,230 stock in the English and Irish funds, which may be considered as a permanent investment, producing, with about £9 from another trust fund, an income of £2,955. The total net annual income of the Incorporated Society, applicable to educational purposes, amounts to £8,179 11*s.* 2*d.* Tables, vol. iii. p. 31.

The history of the Incorporated Society's Schools discloses a remarkable change in the application of the funds of the charity: the persons intended to be benefited being no longer of the same religion as that chiefly contemplated by the charter, nor receiving the industrial instruction prescribed by it. So long as the charity was an institution in which persons of one religion provided for the education of others of a different religion from their own, the charity failed; but, since it was changed into an institution for the education of Protestants selected from Protestant schools, and entirely brought up by Protestants, the Boarding Institutions, which form the characteristic feature of the Society's operations, have been attended with a remarkable amount of success.

We examined the Rev. Mr. Ardill, the Secretary, as to the change of policy introduced into the management of the Incorporated Society's Schools, from the time of the Report of 1825, and he stated to us that the basis of that change was the substitution of competitive examination for the system of patronage in the selection of pupils for the free scholarships in the institution. This system was first introduced in the Dundalk Institution, in the year 1839, on the recommendation of the Rev. Elias Thackeray. Four free places were given to pupils selected from the county of Louth, and four to those selected from the county of Down; Louth being the county where the institution was located, and Down the county in which the property which formed the chief endowment of the school was situate. The system proved to be so successful in the Dundalk school that, in the year 1840, it was extended to the other boarding-schools of the Society. The system was found to be beneficial, not only in securing a good class of pupils in the institutions, but in affording a great stimulus to the Scriptural schools in the several districts of selection. Ev. 23,233.

In 1843 a further step in the same direction was taken by converting Santry into a training institution, and by applying the system of competitive examination to the re-election of pupils who had completed a period of four years in the boarding schools of the Society to a scholarship of three years at the training institution at Santry.

The same system was applied to the selection of one pupil for Santry from each of the day schools directly supported by the Society; and at the same time a plan was introduced of admitting paying boarders and day scholars on terms so moderate as to allow children of respectable persons of limited means to be admitted. This mode of selecting the candidates led to permanent arrangements for sending an annual deputation from the Committee of the Society to their different

INCORPORATED SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS.

schools and institutions, and this now forms a characteristic feature in the management of the Society.

We received a return from the Incorporated Society, giving an account of these examinations as they are now conducted.

The subjects of examination are certain portions of Scripture, the Church Catechism, and Scriptural references; reading, writing, the rudiments of English grammar, the geography of Europe and Palestine, and arithmetic. There are rules as to the admission of candidates, the principal one being that they must have been in attendance on a Scriptural school, within a certain prescribed district, for at least one year previous to the day of examination. Scriptural schools are defined to be those where the Holy Scriptures are daily read by all the children who can read.

This rule, as we have already observed, excludes the pupils of National and other non-exclusive schools, and ought, we think, to be discontinued, as it is an undue limitation of the benefits intended to be bestowed on poor children.

The Society award special certificates to the schoolmasters of each school from which a pupil is selected. From the Reports of our Assistant Commissioners, and from our own observation, we are well satisfied with the state of the boarding institutions of the Incorporated Society; and we think that the greatest credit is due to the Society for the contrast that these institutions present to the state in which they were at so late a period as 1825. The Society were not deterred by the failure of the system which they had previously pursued, by the discredit into which the Society had fallen, or by the withdrawal of the large annual grants of public money. They courageously adopted an entirely new policy, and devoted their exertions to turning the great charity they had charge of to the best account for the benefit of those who could conscientiously avail themselves of it upon the exclusive religious principles on which it was founded. The institutions of the Incorporated Society were the only schools in which we found the free places all filled up, and all given on a system that secured to those intended to be benefited the full and fair enjoyment of their rights.

Whilst we consider the Incorporated Society entitled to this amount of approbation, we must notice some portion of their arrangements which we think capable of improvement. A twofold injurious effect has resulted from the fact of the annual visitation of the Committee to the day schools being chiefly conducted with a view to the examination of candidates for scholarship. From the nature of the case the master has full notice of the period of visitation, and the attention of the Committee is chiefly directed to the successful candidates, and not to the state of instruction of the entire school. The circumstance that the Committee judges of the master so much by the preparation of the successful candidates, has the effect of leading him to devote too much time to a few clever boys, to the neglect of the larger number, who have no chance of being successful. To obviate this injurious effect, the day schools should be subject to the inspection of a paid inspector, whose duty it should be to visit them without notice at different periods of the year, and to examine all the pupils.

Another portion of the business of the Incorporated Society which we had occasion to examine, was the state of their accounts; these were very accurately kept upon the plan that the Society had directed, and were very regularly audited. We find, however, that the form of accounts was not such as to enable the Committee to act in strict conformity with the charter. Its provisions require a distinction between the income and capital of the society; the correct method of effecting this object is to have the accounts kept in the business-like form of books by double entry. The accounts of the society were simply statements of income and expenditure; thus, whilst they showed the annual receipt of dividends on £98,000 worth of funded property, there was no account of the funded property itself. The system of audit was also defective. One of the auditors examined before us himself suggested that the auditing ought to be done in a public office, by responsible persons, who were men of business, which, generally speaking, clergymen are not.

Ev. 21513.

It appeared in evidence before us that purchases of annuities payable by the Society had been made by their land agent, and that in one of these transactions the law agent acted as solicitor at once for the Society, for the agent, and for the seller of the annuity. The circumstance that the annuity was conveyed, not to the agent in his own name, but to a trustee for him, shows that both these officers felt that the transaction was a questionable one. We think they are to be censured for having placed themselves in a position where

Ev. 23438–51.

their interests were or could be at variance with the interests of the Society for which they were acting.

INCORPORATED SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS.

We are of opinion that the rule limiting the competition for the free places to children educated in Scriptural schools, should be discontinued, and that the competition be open to all members of the United Church.

The day schools of the Society should be subject to the inspection of a paid inspector, visiting without notice, and examining all the pupils.

The accounts of the Society should be kept upon a system of book-keeping by double entry, and we are also of opinion, that the audit of the accounts should not be conducted by the members of the Committee or by clergymen, but should be transferred to the proposed Board of Audit in Dublin.

We have recommended that the Celbridge Institution should be converted into a training establishment for schoolmistresses.

We have recommended that schools for the exclusive education of members of the United Church, now under the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, should be transferred to the Incorporated Society. We have also recommended that Bishop Foy's School in Waterford, should be placed under its care, and that the instrumentality of the Society should be used for the protection of the funds of some other exclusive Church schools. *Vide* p. 246, *infra*.

We are of opinion that all the schools so transferred to the Incorporated Society, should be made subject, so far as the intention of the founders admit, to all the rules of the Society, especially those which relate to the selection of candidates by competitive examination; and that the expense of administering the newly-transferred trusts be defrayed out of the several trust funds.

We think that the executive body for governing the Incorporated Society might be improved by having on it a paid member of the Committee, on whom a special responsibility would devolve, both as regards the visitation of schools and the inspection of estates.

As changes have been introduced into the policy of the Society which may render the sites of some of its schools no longer suited for the purposes for which they were intended, we think that in the case of persons under disabilities provision should be made for relieving the Society from restrictions in the deeds of foundation of the schools, or for charging the estates of such persons for the purpose of re-purchasing the school sites. The Society should also be enabled to sell, with an indefeasible title, the small estates that they hold in different parts of the country—the adjoining proprietors, however, should be first offered the option of purchasing, and the money arising from such sale should be held in trust to be re-invested in the purchase of other land.

While our report was under consideration, we received a communication from the Board of the Incorporated Society, applying to us to recommend "that power be granted to the Society to alter, from time to time, the localities of schools for the support or assistance of which funds have been intrusted to the Society, provided that, in each of such changes, the consent of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council for the time being should be first obtained." In support of this application, the Board states "At present the Society is bound in several instances to maintain or assist day schools of an inferior class, and in localities where the limited means at its disposal preclude a hope of any greater benefit resulting than may be expected to accrue from ordinary parochial schools, and, in fact, most of the schools in question really occupy the place of parochial schools. The Society then conceives that it is fully justified in respectfully calling the attention of the Commissioners to this matter, and in suggesting the expediency of relieving the Society from such burdens, and enabling it to divert the funds, now occupied to little profit, comparatively speaking, to more comprehensive efforts for the advancement of education in the country, generally; while by rendering necessary to the carrying out of any of the proposed changes the consent of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, security is afforded that the advisability of each alteration would be very maturely considered, and such attention paid to the interests of the locality likely to be affected, as so important a matter demands."

We desire to express our approval of the recommendation of the Board of the Incorporated Society. We think, however, that the benefit of the power thus proposed to be conferred on the Incorporated Society, should be extended to all trustees and corporate bodies, intrusted with the management of endowments of an exclusive character, with a similar restriction, as to the consent of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council.

INCORPORATED SOCIETY IN DUBLIN FOR PROMOTING

Dr. 1.—STATEMENT of the INCOME and EXPENDITURE of the

Sources of Income.	Particulars of Gross Income and Outgoings therefrom.	£ s. d.	Gross Income. £ s. d.	Outgoings. £ s. d.	Amount applicable to the general purposes of the Society. £ s. d.
Balance, . .	To Cash in Bank of Ireland to credit of Society, on 1st April, 1854, ...	1,982 6 1			
	,, Do. in hands of Secretary on 1st April, 1854, . .	288 11 8	—	—	2,270 17 9
Ranelagh Estate.	,, Do. received by Agent in Rent and Rent-charges, .	1,811 1 10½			
	,, Do. received by Secretary, being Dividends on Government Stock, ...	32 4 8	1,843 6 6½	759 11 9½	1,083 14 9
	Allowances for Poor Rate, Income Tax, Payment for County Cess, Repairs on sundry Premises, Quit Rent, Agent's Fees, Bailiff's Salary, &c., &c., per Agent's Account (including Balance due by Agent to Society, viz., £36), ...	556 1 10½			
	Allowance as Income Tax on Dividends, as above, ...	0 18 10			
	Payments made by Secretary to Ministers of Athlone and Roscommon, Rents of School Farms, &c., ...	202 11 1			
Pococke Estate,	,, Do. received by Agent in Rents, &c., ...	829 3 4			
	,, Do. Balance due to Agent on foot of year's Account, .	33 8 1			
	,, Do. Dividends on Stock to credit of Pococke Estate, .	18 12 8	881 4 1	273 0 2	608 3 11
	Allowances for Poor Rates, Income Tax, Head Rents, Rent-charges, Agent's Fees, Legacies under Gorman's Bequest, and Miscellaneous Disbursements, per Agent's Account, ...	197 2 8			
	Payments made to Ecclesiastical Commissioners and others, by Secretary, in Head Rents and Rent-charges, ...	74 15 10			
	Allowance as Income Tax on Dividends, as above, ...	1 1 8			
	NOTE.—It is to be observed that leases of the Pococke Estate are obtained from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners every fourth year. The renewal fines, fees, and costs thereon, average £220 to £230 per annum, an expenditure which is chargeable on above sum of £608 3*s.* 11*d.*				
General Estates,	To Cash received by Agent in Rents, &c., ...	5,104 19 1			
	,, Do. received out of Six Turnpike Road Debentures, .	15 4 6			
	,, Do. Balance due to Agent on foot of year's Account, .	26 4 7½			
	,, Do. Dividends on Stock to credit of Farra Estate, Boland's Devise, and Somerville's Bequest, .	63 2 6	5,209 10 8½	1,837 2 5½	3,372 8 3
	Allowances for Poor Rate, Income Tax, Cost of Improvements on certain Premises, Agent's Fees, Bailiff's Salary, Head Rents and Rents, Sundry Disbursements, per Agent's Account, ...	826 8 2½			
	Payments of Head Rents and Rent-charges by Secretary, ...	1,007 15 5			
	Allowance as Income Tax on Dividends, as above.	2 18 10			
British Funds, .	,, Do. Interest for year on £40,000, 3¼ per cent. Stock, .	1,300 0 0			
	,, Do. Like, £56,666 13*s.* 4*d.*, 3 per cent. Consols, ...	1,700 0 0	3,000 0 0	102 15 11	2,897 4 1
	Allowances as Income Tax, at 1*s.* 2*d.*, on said Stock in Consols, ...	99 3 4			
	Allowances as commission charged by Bank of Ireland on said dividends on stock in British Funds, ...	3 12 7			
	Ordinary Income, including balance as above, .		10,934 1 4	2,972 10 4	10,232 8 9
Ranelagh Estate,	,, Do. produced by sale of £1,082 1*s.*, 3¼ Government stock, same being required to meet expenses of building at Athlone Ranelagh school, . .		—	—	1,032 9 5
Miscellaneous, .	,, Do. received from three masters of institutions (Falloon, Turner, Cunningham), being payments on account of sums advanced to them by Society, £25 from each, ...	75 0 0			
	,, Do. received, being repayment of Premiums of Insurance on lives of George Clarke and George Payne, the Policies being assigned to the Society as security for debts due by those parties, . . .	12 7 9	—	—	87 7 9
				£	11,352 5 11

NOTE.—In cases where items are marked thus (*), see notes as hereunder:—
"Incidental and Miscellaneous Expenses," 6th column. Under this head are included cost of bedding, of house requisites and utensils, of taxes, &c.
Santry.—The amount of Allowances stated in 4th column, exceeds the average by £33 13*s.*, being balance of fuel account for preceding year.
Roscommon.—The Building and Improvements alluded to in 8th column, are erection of kitchen, porch, and scullery, kitchen-range, &c.
Athlone.—The Building and Improvements alluded to in 8th column, are enlargements to old schoolhouse, new offices, &c.
Athlone—*continued.*—Of the sum of £338 5*s.* 11*d.* stated in the 6th column, £267 13*s.* 7*d.* was expended in providing new bedsteads and bedding for new dormitories, &c., and £20 7*s.* 5*d.* in providing new desks for enlarged school-room.
Celbridge.—The sum stated in 1st column, under "Teachers' and Officers' Salaries," exceeds the average by £15, a gratuity to late usheress on her retirement from the Society's service.

ENGLISH PROTESTANT SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.

INCORPORATED SOCIETY, for the Year ending 31st March, 1855. *Cr.*

Institutions and Day Schools.	Teachers' and Officers' Salaries. 1.	Dietary. 2.	Clothing. 3.	Allowances for Servants, Fuel, Soap, and Candles. 4.	Books, Stationery, and other School Requisites. 5.	Incidental and Miscellaneous Expenses. 6.	Ordinary Repairs. 7.	New Buildings and Improvements. 8.	Total. 9.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dundalk, Male Institution,	200 0 0	378 2 4	134 3 6	89 0 0	49 4 8	*110 5 3	48 2 8	12 0 0	1,020 18 5
Farra, ,, ,, .	133 15 0	187 3 0	72 1 10	82 0 0	15 0 10	35 5 10	28 5 1	—	553 11 7
Pococke, ,, ,, .	95 0 0	183 17 10	68 0 0	48 0 0	16 3 8	93 18 11	18 17 10	12 16 6	536 14 9
Primrose Grange, ,, .	95 0 0	76 4 2	32 10 0	16 0 0	9 16 5	10 17 10	10 13 2	—	251 1 7
Santry, ,, ,, .	178 10 0	135 10 10	46 15 0	*123 19 8	60 3 10	146 8 8	41 18 5	4 18 2	738 4 7
Athlone, Ranelagh, ,, .	170 0 0	167 3 9	60 0 0	69 0 0	23 16 9	*338 5 11	1 7 10	*1,120 0 0	1,949 14 3
Roscommon, do. Female, .	100 5 0	166 5 8	55 18 8	47 0 0	6 6 11	121 11 8	12 17 11	*56 12 4	566 18 2
Celbridge, ,, ,, .	*141 12 8	448 7 9	143 9 10	*144 6 3	3 10 3	58 6 8	15 19 5	*109 10 3	1,065 3 1
	1,114 2 8	1,742 15 4	612 18 10	619 5 11	184 3 4	915 0 9	178 2 4	1,315 17 3	6,682 6 5

	Salaries of Teachers.	Allowances for Fuel, &c.	Books, Stationery, and other School Requisites.	Incidental Expenses.	Ordinary Repairs.	Building and Improvement.	Total.		
Arklow, Male Day School, .	*28 10 0	4 0 0	3 17 11	0 6 8	0 8 6	—	37 3 1		
Clonmel, ,, ,, .	31 10 0	6 0 0	11 16 8	2 0 0	2 16 11	—	54 3 7		
Ray, Male and Female, ,, .	60 0 0	6 0 0	5 7 0	0 12 10	10 17 4	2 13 2	85 10 4		
Trim, Male ,, / Trim, Female ,,	43 18 4	8 0 0	6 5 8	—	5 6 0	—	63 10 0		
Newport, Male ,, / Newport, Female ,,	50 0 0	—	—	0 3 0	—	6 14 6	56 17 6		
Stradbally, Male ,, / Stradbally, Female ,,	35 0 0	5 0 0	0 18 0	2 5 5	0 5 0	—	43 8 5		
Cashel, Male ,, / Cashel, Female ,,	Annual Contribution towards support of Cashel schools, . .						27 13 10		
Birdhill, Male & Female ,, .	The like, do. Birdhill school, . .						10 0 0		
							378 6 9		
Ballycastle (Ramoan) Parochial School, Annual Contribution, ...							5 0 0		
Athlone, St. Peter's, do. do.							5 0 0		
Innishannon, do. do.							5 0 0		393 6 9
Officers' Salaries, viz.:—Secretary, Clerk and Book-keeper, and Messenger, ...									417 15 0
Law Expenditure.—Law Agents' Salary (£150), and sundry law costs incurred, ...									260 16 5
Stationery and Account.—Books for Secretary's and Agent's offices, Printing connected with schools and estates, . .									41 1 10
Advertisements, postage, and incidental expenses, ...									78 7 8
Society house.—Cost of fuel, taxes, insurance against fire, caring house, cleaning offices, sundry repairs, ironmongery, matting, &c., ...									*134 5 1
Annuities, viz.:—Sums paid to retired masters, mistresses, and officers of the Society, ...								£665 3 6	
Do. allowed invalid women, formerly inmates of the Society's institutions, . .								65 6 0	
									730 9 6
Schools in general.—Expenses of the Annual Deputation from the Society, in visiting its institutions and schools in June, July, 1854, ...								117 8 0	
Insurance against fire (£12 9*s.* 9*d.*), cost of 350 honorary certificates for presentation to teachers of successful candidates for admission (£17 9*s.*), ...								29 18 9	
									147 6 9
Innishannon.—Donation from the Society, as landlord, towards erection of a new church at Innishannon,									5 0 0
Balance.—By Cash to credit of Society in Bank of Ireland, 31st March, ...								1,914 18 11	
Do. ,, in hands of Secretary, do., ...								546 11 7	
									2,461 10 6
								£	11,352 5 11

Celbridge—*continued.*—The "Building," &c., stated in 8th column, was the erection of a cast-iron cistern, lavatory, &c.

Celbridge—*continued.*—In the sum stated under "Allowances" in 4th column, is included a sum of £37 11*s.* 1*d.*, a balance on foot of fuel account for preceding year.

Arklow.—The amount paid master is £36 per annum, and a monitor is allowed £2 per annum. Owing to an irregularity in the master's application, three quarters' salary and allowance, viz., £28 10*s.* only, were paid within the year in question, as stated in 1st column.

Society's House.—The amount here stated, £134 5*s.* 1*d.*, is in excess of expenditure properly chargeable under this head during year in question, inasmuch as it includes a sum of £25 6*s.* 6*d.* paid for fuel supplied during preceding year.

INCORPORATED SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS.

2.—INCORPORATED SOCIETY'S BOARDING INSTITUTIONS.

Locality of School.	School. No. of Pupils School-room suited for.	School. No. of Boarders Dormitories suited for.	Pupils. Number. Average during current year.	Pupils. Number. On Roll.	Pupils. Religion. United Church.	Pupils. Religion. Roman Catholic.	Pupils. Religion. Presbyterian.	Pupils. Religion. Others.	Pupils. Annual Charges. Boarders.	Pupils. Annual Charges. Day Pupils.	Pupils. Free on Roll.	State of Instruction.
LEINSTER:												
Dublin.												
Santry Training Institution, Boys, . . .	96	59	100	99	99	–	–	–	£16.	£2 to £4.	13	Satisfactory.
Kildare.												
Celbridge, Girls, . .	152	36	56	58	58	–	–	–	None.	–	58	Satisfactory.
Kilkenny.												
Kilkenny; St. John's, Pococke, Boys, . .	90	20	26	27	27	–	–	–	£13 to £14.	£2	18	Very satisfactory.
Louth.												
Dundalk, Boys, . .	140	42	84	85	82	2	–	1	£14 10*s.* to £24.	£2.	39	Generally satisfactory, but sufficient attention not paid to commercial studies.
Westmeath.												
Leney; Farra, Boys, .	90	22	32	41	41	–	–	–	Non-foundation, £14. 10*s.*	£2	30	Satisfactory.
CONNAUGHT:												
Roscommon.												
Athlone; Ranelagh, Boys,	134	42	*	76	73	3	–	–	£16.	£2 to £3, and £4.	21	Not satisfactory.
Roscommon; Ranelagh, Girls, ...	69	17	*	29	29	–	–	–	£18 18*s.* to £20.	–	26	Satisfactory.
Sligo.												
Killaspicbrone; Primrose Grange, Boys, . .	114	12	20	36	36	–	–	–	£14 10*s.*	10*s.*	11	Very satisfactory.
	885	250	318	451	445	5	–	1			216	

* No regular register.

3.—INCORPORATED SOCIETY'S DAY SCHOOLS.

Locality of School.	No. of Pupils School-room suited for.	Pupils. Number. Average during current year.	Pupils. Number. On Roll.	Pupils. Religion. United Church.	Pupils. Religion. Roman Catholic.	Pupils. Religion. Presbyterian.	Pupils. Religion. Others.	Pupils. Annual Charges.	Pupils. Free on Roll.	State of Instruction.
LEINSTER:										
Meath.										
Trim, Boys, ...	287	22	28	28	–	–	–	4*s.* 4*d.* to £1.	13	Not satisfactory.
Trim, Girls, ...	42	26	33	31	2	–	–	10*s.* to £1.	10	Satisfactory.
Queen's County.										
Stradbally, ...	308	18	24	22	2	–	–	4*s.* 4*d.*	12	Unsatisfactory.
Wicklow.										
Arklow, Boys, ...	152	45	50	50	–	–	–	4*s.* 4*d.*	10	Not satisfactory.
MUNSTER:										
Tipperary.										
Cashel, Deanery, Parochial Free, Boys,	100	9	13	12	–	–	–	Some pay 4*s.* 4*d.*	About 10	Not satisfactory.
Cashel, Deanery, Parochial Free, Girls,	82	19	23	18	–	–	–	Some pay 6*s.*	19	Satisfactory, but elementary.
Clonmel, St. Mary's Parochial, .	100	29	26	17	–	–	–	None.	26	Very unsatisfactory.
Kilcomentry; Birdhill, . . .	166	13	25	22	3	–	–	None.	25	Satisfactory as an elementary school.
Newport, Boys, ...	132	24	51	24	9	–	–	None.	51	Very unsatisfactory.
Newport, Girls, ...	132	12	18	9	1	–	–	None.	18	Very unsatisfactory.
ULSTER:										
Donegal.										
Ray, ...	120	72	129	16	32	81	–	12*s.*	20	School closed for vacation.
	1621	289	420	249	49	81	–		214	

Schools Founded by the Association for Discountenancing Vice.

This Association was founded in the year 1792, and was incorporated by Act of Parliament in the year 1800. One of the objects of the Association was the founding of schools; and out of the assistance which they obtained from private individuals and the annual grants from Parliament, they contributed a considerable sum towards the building of schoolhouses. It appears from the Report of the Commissioners of 1825, that there were then 226 schools in connexion with this Association, of which 167 were connected with it alone, and 59 with one or more other societies. The attendance at all these schools exceeded 12,600, about 9,000 belonging to the former class of schools.

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. Rep. 1825, pp. 30–31.

Vide p. 19, *supra*.

Rep. 1826, p. 6.

The practice of the Association with regard to the schools, to the building of which they contributed, was to secure in every case a grant of land in perpetuity, as a consideration for the money which they advanced in aid of building. They also generally received subscriptions in aid of the building grant. Most of the schools erected under their auspices are still in existence, and carried on under the deeds of endowment, made in the way we have noticed.

These conveyances are all made to the minister and churchwardens; and the appointment of the schoolmaster and the regulation of the school are vested in the minister of the parish in which the school is situate; and the children of the United Church are required to be taught the Church catechism. The Society, down to the year 1827, received annual grants from Parliament, and out of these grants contributed salaries towards the support of these schools.

After their annual grant was withdrawn, they discontinued this mode of assisting schools, and finally gave up all connexion with them, although they retain in their custody many of the leases that were made. These leases were placed in our hands for the purposes of our inquiry; and the books relating to the building of schoolhouses, and the grants that were made for school purposes, were also placed at our disposal. By these means we were enabled to trace a number of endowments.

As the Society has no longer any connexion with schools, we have not thought it necessary to make a special class of those which they founded or supported, but they are noticed in the Tables of Schools and Endowments, in the counties in which they are respectively situate.

We cannot conclude our observations with regard to the Association for Discountenancing Vice, without noticing the great prudence and care with which their business, with respect to the schools, seems to have been conducted. We find that in scarcely any instance was the money paid without the lease having been perfected, that the leases were all made on printed and inexpensive forms, and contained no clause calculated to render the endowment insecure; and that they were duly executed.

The books of the Society have been kept in a careful manner; so that we were enabled to trace its proceedings with regard to endowments.

We recommend that all the leases, books, and papers belonging to the Association for Discountenancing Vice, and relating to endowments, should be deposited with the proposed Registrar of School Endowments for registration.

That power should be given by statute to the Association for Discountenancing Vice, and persons holding property in trust for them, to transfer to any trustee or trustees approved of by the bishop of the diocese in which the endowment is situate, all their authority or interest in any exclusive endowment connected with the United Church.

That all their authority or interest in any non-exclusive endowment should be transferred to the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

Endowments for Schools under the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests in Ireland.

The first legislative provision in Ireland against the abuse or misapplication of charities was an Act passed in the tenth year of King Charles I., which made it compulsory on bishops, to whom donations were made, to execute trusts, but it was specially limited to this purpose.

1634. 10 Car. I. Sess. 3, c. 1.

The next step towards securing the application of charitable donations and bequests was taken by the Irish Parliament ten years afterwards, when the Registrar of the Prerogative Court was required to make a constat of all charitable legacies and bequests for pious uses. The duty of making similar returns was afterwards imposed on the Registrar by statute.

1644. Irish Commons Journal, vol. i. p. 324.

SCHOOL ENDOWMENTS UNDER BEQUESTS BOARD.

1759. Irish Commons Journal, vol. vi. p. 156. 1763. 3 Geo. III. c. 18.

In 1759 the House of Commons appointed a Committee to inquire into the manner in which the lands and funds granted for charitable uses had been applied. The result was the enactment of the Statute 3 Geo. III. ch. 18, which recites that "the pious intentions of many charitable persons were frequently defeated by the concealment or misapplication of their donations or bequests, to public or private charities." The Act provided that annual returns of all charitable donations and bequests contained in any will should be made by Vicars-General and the Registrar of the Prerogative Court to the Bishop of the Diocese or the Archbishop of Armagh respectively, and copies of the return, upon oath, lodged with the Clerk of each House of Parliament. Executors were required to publish three times in the *Dublin Gazette*, within three months after probate, any charitable donation and bequest, with the date of the will, the names of the testator, legatees, and trustees.

1763. Irish Lords Journal, vol. iv. p. 277.

In 1763 the Irish House of Lords appointed a Committee to inquire and examine into charities, with power to send for persons, papers, and records. The Lords' Committee continued to be appointed each year, until the union of the two kingdoms, in the year 1800.

1766. Irish Lords Journal, vol. iv. p. 374.

In 1776, after the formation of the Committee of the House of Lords, the House of Commons prepared heads of a bill for transferring the jurisdiction of the Lords' Committee to Commissioners, and sent them to the House of Lords, but the Lords declined entering on the subject, preferring to await the Report of their own Select Committee, to whom the inquiry had been referred.

1800. 40 Geo. III. c. 75.

At the time of the union, the duties of the Lords' Committee were transferred to the first Charitable Bequest Board, which was then established. It consisted of the prelates of the United Church, the Lord Chancellor, the twelve Judges, the Incumbents of the parishes in the city of Dublin, and some other dignitaries; all members of the United Church. This board was empowered to sue for charitable donations "withheld, concealed, or misapplied," and to apply the same according to the intention of the donors. In case it were inexpedient, unlawful, or impracticable to apply the same strictly according to the directions and intentions of the donors, the Board was empowered "to apply same to such charitable and pious purposes as they should judge to be nearest and most conformable to the directions and intentions of the donors." The returns required in the Statute 3 Geo. III., c. 18, were directed to be made to the Secretary of the Board instead of to the Clerk of Parliament.

Ibid. s. 2.

1812. 52 Geo. III. c. 101.

The law with regard to charities was amended by a Statute passed in the year 1812, which facilitated the redress of abuses, and the settlement of schemes, by allowing application for those purposes in Chancery by summary petition.

1844. 7 and 8 Vic. c. 97.

The policy of intrusting the entire protection of charitable donations and bequests to an exclusive board having been objected to, a mixed board was constituted in the year 1844, composed of the Master of the Rolls, the Chief Baron, and the Judge of the Prerogative Court, together with ten persons to be nominated by the Crown, five of whom were to be Roman Catholics. It was provided that all matters relating to religious usages or discipline should be referred to a committee composed of the Roman Catholic members of the Board, where the charity concerned Roman Catholics, and in other cases to a Committee composed of the Protestant members.

Ibid. s. 12.

This Board was empowered to sue for charitable donations "withheld, concealed, or misapplied," and to apply the same according to the intention of the donors, but the *cy-pres* powers conferred on the preceding Board, in cases where the directions and intentions of the donor could not be strictly complied with, were not given to the new one.

The Statutes 3 Geo. III. c. 18, and 40 Geo. III. c. 75, were repealed by the first section of the new Act; but the above-mentioned provisions, requiring returns on oath of charitable devises or bequests to the Secretary of the Board, and advertisements in the *Dublin Gazette* by executors, were re-enacted.

Ibid. s. 19.

The Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests are bound, in the discharge of their duties, to sue for endowments for schools when withheld, concealed, or misapplied, and to apply them according to the intention of the donors. These charities, however, form but a small portion of those falling under their care.

The Commissioners made a return to us of the funds vested in them for schools; the bequests were thirty-eight in number, only a few of them extending to charitable objects other than those of education. The amount of the endowments is £26,966 15*s.* 7*d.* in consols, the interest on which, together with

rents and annuities producing £1,651 15*s.* 7*d.* forms a total annual income of £2,460 15*s.* 7*d.* These endowments were made the subject of inspection or inquiry by our Assistant Commissioners, and are noticed in the Tables of Schools and Endowments. Only two of them were brought under our notice at our public courts, held in the provincial towns—Tate's endowment for a school at Wexford, and the Killough school in the county of Down.

School Endowments under Bequest Board.

The subject of Tate's endowment was brought before us by the Mayor of Wexford, at our court held in that town. The testator's will bears date 1794, and the amount of the endowment is now £7,840 5*s.* 9*d.* This endowment has been inoperative for upwards of sixty years, although there was evidence given before us that the money might have been judiciously applied in promoting education in Wexford. We inquired as to the proceedings adopted by the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests, with regard to this charity, and found that it had been under the consideration of the late and the present board for a long time.

Ev. 421.

Ev. 422–428.

In the year 1833, about forty years after the death of the testator, his assets were administered by the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests, by distributing a portion among sixty-two persons, who claimed as poor relations, and by allocating another portion for the purchase of some bread for distressed housekeepers, in pursuance of part of the trusts of the will; and the residue of the fund was applicable to the foundation of a school in Wexford. In 1843, 1850, and in 1853, the subject of this endowment was re-considered at the board; but difficulties were experienced in obtaining the assent of the local trustees to a plan for the management of the school.

The Commissioners, after carrying on a voluminous correspondence with the trustees, and having had the subject under consideration for a number of years, have not yet succeeded in bringing the charity into operation, a fact which indicates that they are not invested with adequate powers.

We received evidence at Downpatrick and in Dublin, from the Rev. Mr. West, complaining of the state of the endowment for a school at Killough, and detailing a dispute between himself and the trustees of another endowment for a school in the same place, with which it had formerly been united, the funds for both endowments being vested in the Bequest Board. The fact that one of the bequests has not been in operation for some time indicates the want of power experienced by the Board to deal with cases of disputes amongst trustees as to the application of funds so vested, because they have no inspectors or other means enabling them to obtain the local information required for adjusting such disputes.

Ev. 9778.
Ev. 20305.

In the course of our inquiries several cases of abused or misapplied school charities which had not been previously under the notice of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests, were brought before us at our public courts. We referred these cases to them with the view of having immediate steps taken for the protection of the endowments.

In the case of the Elphin Roman Catholic Diocesan Seminary which we have noticed elsewhere, the Commissioners succeeded in recovering the sum of £350. We have also noticed the Crofton Endowments, where proceedings are pending. The results of their proceedings in other cases which have been communicated to us are stated in the Tables of Schools and Endowments.

Vide, p. 184, *infra*.

Vide, p. 183, *infra*.

We have elsewhere noticed cases reported on by the Assistant Commissioners, which illustrate the management of the former Bequest Board, and the defects in the powers of the present Board.

Vide Bertrand's Charity, p. 169. Arklow, Incorporated Society's School, p. 179. Kellett's School, p. 171, *infra*. Illerton, p. 185.

Mr. MacDonnell one of the Secretaries of the Bequest Board, in his evidence before us, pointed out some defects in the powers of the Board, which affect school as well as other charities.

Ev. 23172.

The Board cannot interfere until after the donations have been "withheld, concealed, or misapplied;" and they have no power to accept endowments which parties are willing to intrust to their care, because if they accept them, they are not protected by the Act from private responsibility. They have very limited powers of inquiry with regard to endowments, much more restricted than those which exist under the recent English Acts for the better administration of Charitable Trusts, and than those as to School Endowments intrusted by Statute to the Commissioners of Education. The Board have moreover adopted a practice, founded upon their construction of the Act of Parliament, that still further limits their proceedings: for they do not usually take any steps with reference to an endowment, except on the complaint of persons cognizant of the circumstances.

Ev. 23180–1.

16 & 17 Vic. c. 137.

18 & 19 Vic. c. 124.

53 Geo. III. c. 107.

Ev. 23172.

SCHOOL ENDOWMENTS UNDER BEQUEST BOARD.

A divided responsibility at present exists between the Bequest Board and the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, in cases where the funds belonging to a school under a bequest are abused or misapplied; the duty of guarding against the abuse having been imposed upon each Board when called on to interfere.

The statutable provisions as to a return on oath of donations and bequests, by the Vicar-General and the Registrar of the Court of Prerogative, are not literally carried into effect, but certified extracts of wills, so far as they relate to such bequests, are, with the other information required in the return, regularly furnished to the Secretaries of the Bequest Board. The extracts from the wills do not show the amount when a share or residue is bequeathed or the amounts realized when the estate is inadequate.

Ev. 23174.

The following plan, based on a suggestion which was brought under our notice in evidence, would, in many cases, ascertain the exact amount and value of the testator's property applicable to educational purposes. Even where it did not do this, it would supply valuable information, tending towards the discovery of those particulars.

The Court of Probate in Ireland should be required, in all cases of wills, containing bequests for educational purposes, to make returns to the Registrar of School Endowments, showing the value of the testator's property, as estimated, with a view to the imposition of probate duty, together with the names of the representatives who have proved the will. The succession and legacy duty office should make similar returns, in any case where the representatives apply either to have a deduction of probate duty made, or to pay an increased amount. The same officer should return the exact sum or estimated value of all gifts made for educational purposes, whether by deed or will, consisting of real or of personal property, which it became necessary to ascertain, with a view to the collection of the legacy or succession duties.

The Court of Probate and the Succession and Legacy Duty Office in England ought to make like returns, in respect of any wills proved, or deeds executed in that country, which should contain gifts for educational purposes to be applied in Ireland.

There is no provision in the Bequest Act giving the public a right of access to the extracts in the Bequest Office, even on the payment of fees.

For searches by the public at the office for Registry of Wills fees must be paid, and where full copies of wills are required, these fees are very considerable. The persons searching are not allowed to take copies, nor will extracts be given to them. The officers of the Board are allowed to make searches without paying fees, and to obtain copies at half the usual charges.

We are of opinion, that the Registration of Charitable Bequests for schools should be consolidated with the registration of deeds and other documents containing evidence specially relating to educational endowments, under an officer charged with this special duty.

That the Registrar of School Endowments should compare every extract with the probate of the will, in order that the registered extract may be a complete document on which all persons may safely act.

That all searches in the office of the Registrar of School Endowments should be free of expense, the public being permitted without payment to take extracts or copies of the documents there lodged.

In defining the powers of the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools, care should be taken to guard against any divided responsibility between them and the Bequest Board.

That for this purpose it should be declared to be the primary duty of the Bequest Board to institute proceedings incidental to the recovery and realization of trust funds, in all cases where proceedings can affect other charities not under the care of the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

That it should be the primary duty of the Commissioners of Endowed Schools to proceed where the entire funds to be recovered would come under their care.

That either Board might take proceedings on the neglect by, or with the consent of the other Board, to recover funds falling under the jurisdiction of both.

That the Bequest Board should not retain any funds belonging to, or any control over, schools under the jurisdiction of the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed schools, but should transfer the funds, as soon as realized, to the latter Board.

Schools of Private Foundation under the Commissioners of Education in Ireland.

Schools under Commissioners of Education.

The Commissioners of Education in Ireland were constituted in 1813 by the Statute 53rd Geo. III. c. 107. They were, as we have already noticed, intrusted with the management of the Diocesan free schools, and the Royal free schools. They were also empowered to visit all endowed schools except certain classes which were exempted from their jurisdiction. The classes of endowed schools exempted were nearly all exclusive schools; that is, schools where pupils of only one religious persuasion had a right of admission, or where the trustees, being of one religious persuasion, had power to enforce instruction in the tenets of their religion on all the pupils. The exempted schools, as defined in the Act of Parliament, are those on the foundation of Erasmus Smith, the Protestant charter or Incorporated Society schools, endowments for the education of persons professing any religion other than that of the United Church of England and Ireland, and schools under the control of visitors appointed by charter or statute. Institutions under special visitors, were, up to the year 1813, almost entirely for the exclusive education of persons of the United Church. The Commissioners had thus charge of all the non-exclusive schools, and of the few exclusive schools, not included in the exemptions. The parochial schools which the clergy were bound to keep, under Statute 28 Henry VIII. c. 15, which we have not however treated as endowed schools, were also exempt from their visitation.

1813. 53 Geo. III. c. 107. *Vide*, pp. 24, 47, *supra*. Ret. of Com. of Ed. to Ho. of Com. 1821. Par. Pap. 553, p. 3.

The powers intrusted to the Commissioners were of the most ample character; they had all the powers of visitors at common law, increased by a statutable provision for compelling parties to give them information, to produce documents, and to give evidence before them. They also had power to make orders for the better regulation or management of the schools under them; and, through the medium of the Court of Chancery, to remove trustees of private endowments, and to take the funds under their own care, or place them under the control of new trustees.

By a recital in the Act, the attention of the Commissioners was especially directed to the schools of Navan and Ballyroan, endowed by Alderman Preston, to the grammar schools referred to in the Twelfth Report of the Commissioners of Education Inquiry of 1807–12, and to the English schools referred to in the Thirteenth Report of the same Commissioners; thus implying an intention that the board should at once take charge of these schools to which their attention was directed. The number of schools thus recommended to their care was eighty-one; in the Reports of 1807–12, sixteen were reported on as grammar schools, and sixty-five as English schools.

In 1822 an Act of Parliament was passed, the 3rd Geo. IV. c. 79, which extended the powers of the Commissioners to all schools, whether endowed before or after the passing of the Act of 1813, subject, however, to the exemptions contained in the latter Act. 1822. 3 Geo. IV. c. 79.

We find that the number of schools of private foundation under the care of the Commissioners increased from twelve, in 1831, to twenty-two, in 1849, of which sixteen were grammar and six English schools; and a return for 1853, and another since made to us, show the same result, with the exception of one additional English school, that established at Kilbricken for the tenantry of the Navan and Ballyroan school estate.

Grammar Schools under the Commissioners of Education in Ireland.

The grammar schools returned* to us as being under the superintendence of the Commissioners of Education, are Ballyroan, Bandon, Carrickmacross, Charleville, Clonakilty, Clonmel, Dundalk, Eyrecourt, Kilkenny, Kinsale, Lifford, Lismore, Midleton, Navan, Waterford, and Youghal, which include all the grammar schools mentioned in the Twelfth Report of the Commissioners of 1807–12, except Castlebar and Rathfarnham, the endowments for which are not in operation. Of these, we had the opportunity of visiting some of the most important, and we also received evidence with regard to several of them in our public Courts.

Ballyroan, Queen's County.

Navan, County of Meath.

The endowment of the schools of Navan and Ballyroan presents one of the most remarkable instances of an abused trust. It was made, in 1686, by Alder- Ev. 4746.

* New Ross not returned, *vide* p. 115, *infra*.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS UNDER COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION.

man John Preston, of the city of Dublin, who granted lands, containing 1,737 acres, upon trusts, one of which was to pay a salary of £35 to a Protestant master to teach at Navan; and another to pay a salary of £25, on the like terms, to a master at Ballyroan. The Committee of Inquiry into abused charities, appointed by the Irish House of Lords in the year 1764, mention, in one of its earliest Reports, the endowment of Alderman John Preston for the foundation of the Navan and Ballyroan schools.

Appendix, p. 31. Irish Lords Journal, vol. iv., p. 330.

The charity had been misapplied for about thirty years before that time, and a Chancery suit was then pending for the purpose of carrying the trusts of Alderman John Preston's will into effect.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 360.

The Commissioners of 1791, in their notice of grammar schools of private foundation, observed on the neglected state in which they found the schools of Navan and Ballyroan. The Commissioners of 1807–12 devote the entire of their Second Report to these schools, and report the abuses in them as shameful.

Ev. 4749–50.

53 Geo. III. c. 107, s. 14.

Ev. 4751.

Ev. 4753.

Ev. 4759.

In consequence of their Report, a special clause was introduced into the Act of 1813, vesting the estates of these charities in the Commissioners of Education, who in 1814 held visitations on these schools, and made arrangements for placing them on a proper foundation. The Commissioners next intervened in the above proceedings then still pending in the Court of Chancery, and applied to have the trustees removed; for several years afterwards they noticed these Chancery proceedings in each of their annual Reports; and finally, at the end of twenty years after their appointment, they succeeded in obtaining possession of the estates, and thus terminated the cause which had been pending in Chancery for ninety-nine years. It appears that the costs incurred in it amounted in 1808 to about £3,000.

Com. Educ. 1807–12, Rep. p. 12.

Nearly twenty years more have elapsed since the conclusion of the Chancery suit, and during that time the schools have been under the Commissioners. We visited the schools, and examined the masters with respect to them.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 209.

Our Assistant Commissioner's report on the Ballyroan school is most unfavourable. He states that the schoolhouse is in a disgraceful condition, attended by only two day pupils, out of three on the roll, and that their education is very much neglected. Yet the master is paid, by the Commissioners, £92 6*s.* 2*d.* a-year, and is provided with a house worth £12 a-year; and he has an assistant, whose salary, from the same source, is £55 7*s.* 8*d.*, and who has a cottage worth £5 a-year. No benefit appears to arise from this endowment, so far as the public are concerned. The school has not been inspected by the Commissioners of Education since 1838.

Ev. 5120.

With regard to Ballyroan, it was suggested in evidence, that the endowment might be transferred to Maryborough, the chief town of the Queen's County, situate at a distance of seven miles, where there was at one time a diocesan school, and where a great want is felt of the means of education for the middle classes.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 197.

Another of our Assistant Commissioners, in his report on Navan school states, that he found no boarders, and but three day boys present out of five on the roll, of whom four were free, and all belonging to the United Church. Of the three boys present, one, who was preparing for Trinity College, seemed very well taught; but the others, who had but lately joined the school, knew less than the average of boys in the National schools. From what we could learn, there seems great difficulty in making the endowment efficient at Navan, and our Assistant Commissioner notices the bad situation of the schoolhouse.

It thus appears as if some fatality attended these schools, or the localities in which they are situate; for on no schools has a greater amount of inquiry been bestowed, and in the case of no schools have more expensive and protracted legal proceedings been adopted, and yet there are none to be found in a more unsatisfactory state.

We are of opinion that the purposes of the founder would be best accomplished by uniting the two endowments, and establishing one efficient school at Maryborough, which is the nearest large town to the charity estate.

Bandon, County of Cork.

The school at Bandon was assisted by the Earl of Cork about 1610; and, by his will in 1642, he created or confirmed a charge in its favour of £20 a-year for the master, and £10 for the usher, and gave directions that the school should be further assisted by the building of a schoolhouse, which he directed his heirs to keep in repair. This will was made during the great rebellion which

commenced in 1641, and according to it the directions of the testator were not to be carried into effect until peace should be restored. The school was assisted subsequently by the Corporation of Bandon. The extent of this assistance was, in 1791, £20 a-year.

Our Assistant Commissioner notices that the salary at present paid by the Duke of Devonshire is £40, being an increase on the sum granted for the master and usher by the Earl of Cork.

The school is at present attended by twenty-five pupils, four of whom are boarders. There are no free pupils, and the right of admission to such is denied by the master. Fifteen of the pupils belong to the United Church, and ten are dissenters. As the majority of the pupils were absent at the time of the Assistant Commissioner's inspection, he had no opportunity for ascertaining, by examination, what general progress they had made in their studies, classical or English; but he refers to the distinctions, scientific and literary, obtained by pupils educated in the school, as evidencing the master's capacity to conduct a school of this kind successfully.

Carrickmacross, County of Monaghan.

Carrickmacross School was endowed in 1711, by Viscount Weymouth, who granted a rent-charge of £70 for the support of a grammar school, the proceeds to be devoted to the repairs of the schoolhouse and the payment of the master.

The Commissioners of 1791 state that a few years previously a schoolhouse, capable of containing fifty boarders, and a dwelling-house for the master, had been built by Viscount Weymouth. The attendance, however, did not exceed twenty-one, of whom but two were boarders. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 373.

In 1803 a new master was appointed; when the attendance rose to forty-seven boarders, and eleven day scholars, but in 1812 he had ceased to be master. The schoolhouse was then much out of repair, and the school attended by only twelve boarders and nineteen day scholars. Com. Educ. 1807–12, Rep. p. 280.

Our Assistant Commissioner found the yard and offices in a ruinous condition. The attendance consisted of twenty-three pupils present, twenty of whom were boarders and three day boys, none of them being free. The number on the roll was twenty-six, and of these twenty-three belonged to the United Church, and the remaining three, who were day pupils, were Roman Catholics. Two of the day boys on the roll were returned as free. The pupils in general were well instructed, as well in classics as in several other departments. In English composition, however, they were not much advanced, although the rules of the foundation specially direct the master's attention to this branch of instruction. The founder conferred the right of free admission on all persons from the barony of Farney, which was his estate at the time of the endowment; nevertheless the master considers it altogether optional with himself whether or not he is to receive free pupils, and exercises the discretion, with which he conceives himself invested, by admitting a very small number. Table, vol. iii. p. 633.

The deed of foundation appoints the Lord Primate, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dublin, the Bishop of Clogher, and the Provost of Trinity College as visitors, with directions for them, or two of them, to visit annually, or oftener if necessary. The Assistant Commissioner reports that they never visit. Ibid.

We have elsewhere noticed this want of visitation. *Vide*, p. 181, *infra*.

Charleville, County of Cork.

Charleville School was endowed by the Earl of Cork about the commencement of the seventeenth century. The particulars of this endowment are at present unknown, the deed of foundation not being forthcoming, having, it is supposed been burned long since. Com. Educ. 1807–12, Rep. p. 286.

The school is noticed in the Report of the Commissioners of 1791. It is there stated that this school, which had been endowed by the Earl of Cork, was attended by eight day pupils, two of whom were free. It is also observed, that the ruins of a large schoolhouse existed, from which it would appear that the establishment had originally been conducted on an extensive scale. It had, in 1791, however, fallen into a very unsatisfactory state, and at present it appears to be much in the same condition. Our Assistant Commissioner found the number of pupils only four, and none of them free; the schoolhouse in ruins, and the state of education unsatisfactory. The master receives the original salary of £40 (late currency) from the Earl of Cork, by whom his appointment was made. Though this school was returned as being under the Commissioners of Education, it has never been inspected or visited by them. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 373. Tables, vol. iii. p. 314.

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Clonakilty, County of Cork.

Com. Educ. 1807–12, Rep. p. 287.

In the Twelfth Report of the Commissioners of Education, 1812, it is stated, that there was then, at Clonakilty, in the county of Cork, one of the largest endowed classical schools in the south of Ireland. They report it as having been opened in 1808, and to have been established by the Earl of Shannon, who contracted for the building of the schoolhouse, and that there was then half an acre of land, besides a garden, attached to it.

The Commissioners of Education included the school amongst those under their jurisdiction in 1849, and in 1853; and also amongst those that they have returned to us.

It is alleged, however, by the agent of the Earl of Shannon, by the Vicar, and by the master of the school, that the school is not endowed, and that the house and land, which were supposed to constitute the endowment, are held rent free, at the pleasure of the Earl of Shannon.

Our Assistant Commissioner reported, that the school was not endowed, and made no inspection.

Under these circumstances, it appears somewhat remarkable, that the Commissioners of Education should, for several years, have returned the school to Parliament as one of the endowed schools under their charge, and also have included it amongst those returned to us.

Clonmel, County of Tipperary.

Ev. 706.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 366.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. pp. 361, 374. Appendix, p. 32.

The Clonmel classical school was endowed by Richard Moore, Esq., and Stephen, his son, in 1685, being one year after the endowment of the College at Kilkenny by the Duke of Ormonde, and just before Alderman John Preston endowed the schools of Navan and Ballyroan. The lands which then let for £42 a-year, were conveyed to trustees, for the erection and support of a grammar school, where the children of Protestant freemen of Clonmel should be taught gratis. By the deed of grant it was provided that the founders or their heirs, the Duke of Ormonde, and the Mayor of Clonmel for the time being, or any two of them, should have power to appoint or change the schoolmaster as they might think fit.

The Commissioners of 1791 found this endowment in a very unsatisfactory condition. The lands, worth £370 a-year, had been leased for £200, at the instance of the Earl of Mountcashel, the heir of the founder; and of this sum, £120 was paid to a relative of his, appointed to be schoolmaster, but who did not perform the duties, while £80 was paid to the Rev. Mr. Carey, who kept the school. There were then twenty-one boarders and ten day scholars, of whom only two were free.

The Commissioners recommended that legal proceedings should be taken to set aside the lease, so as to render the funds of the school estate available for the purposes of the endowment.

Ev. 707.

Ev. 711.

The Rev. Mr. Carey being removable at the pleasure of the patrons, of whom the Earl of Mountcashel was one, acquiesced in the lease of the school estate until 1801, when the estate and town was transferred from the Mountcashel to the Bagwell family. He then, with the approbation of Mr. Bagwell, commenced proceedings in Chancery to set aside the lease, and eventually the Court decreed to that effect; but a sub-lease, which had been made by the lessee at £400 a-year, was upheld by the Court, and lasted for many years afterwards, its expiration not being noticed until the year 1841, when it is referred to in a Report of the Commissioners of Education. The master carried on the proceedings at his own expense, and in the meantime does not appear to have kept up the school in a satisfactory condition, for the Commissioners of 1807–12 observe that there were then no boarders, and but twenty-one day scholars, of whom only one was free.

Ev. 718.

The present master was appointed by the Earl of Mountcashel, who claims the right of appointment conjointly with the Marquess of Ormonde. It appeared in evidence that from the time of his appointment nothing could be more unsatisfactory than the state of the school. This is one of the few cases in which the Commissioners have exercised their power of visitation. The visitors selected by them were not members of their own board, or persons under their control, but local persons of dignity and influence.

Ev. 714.

The visitors found the affairs of the school in a most unsatisfactory state, but, at the same time, they did not suggest adequate remedies; and the Commissioners of Education made no further effort to put the school on a satisfactory footing.

The unsatisfactory state of the school arises from the pecuniary embarrassments of the master. The difficulty felt by the visitors and by the Commissioners was the want of means for meeting cases in which mismanagement arises from imprudence and personal difficulties, and not from actual misconduct in the business of the school.

At our public court we examined the master and some of the principal inhabitants of Clonmel; we found a very strong feeling as to the want of a school fitted to provide the education which this school was intended to supply. It appeared to us, at the same time that a feeling of compassion towards the master restrained some of the witnesses from giving full expression to the dissatisfaction with which they regard the inefficient state of the school. Ev. 717.

Our Assistant Commissioner states the attendance to be twenty-seven. There were twenty-nine on the roll, all being day pupils, and ten of them free. The course of classical instruction is very elementary; but, as far as they had been instructed, the pupils seemed rather proficient.

We found the schoolhouse in good repair, admirably planned, and especially suited for boarders; yet, there were none in the school, and the master had received none for some years. Ev. 715, 906.

The state of this school indicates, that patronage in private hands ought not to be separated from the local connexion which is a check upon its proper exercise. The compassion of the inhabitants, visitors, and Commissioners appears to us greatly misplaced—it would have been much better to have dismissed the master at once, and thus prevented his imprudence from depriving an important town of an efficient school for some years, and we think that steps ought now to be taken for his removal.

Dundalk, County of Louth.

There is some doubt as to the origin of the Dundalk endowed school. It is alleged on the one hand, that the endowment was made by the Earl of Limerick, in 1725, in consideration of certain commons of Dundalk, on which he had some claim, being given up to him by the Corporation. It is alleged, on the other hand, that the claim was not well founded, but that the Corporation being under the influence of the Earl of Limerick, too readily yielded to it.

Our Assistant Commissioner inquired into the matter, and expressed himself unable to decide which of the two accounts of the origin of the foundation was correct. He was also unable to get a copy of the deed of foundation. A copy was stated to be in the custody of the present representative of the Earl of Limerick and Clanbrassil,—the Earl of Roden; but could not be obtained, as his solicitor was unable to find the original among his lordship's papers. Tables, vol. iii. p. 181.

Our Assistant Commissioner notices the state of instruction favourably, with the exception of the English department, which is not duly attended to. There was no roll of attendance, but the number of pupils present was twenty-six, of whom seventeen were boarders and nine day boys. There are two free pupils, but the master states that it is optional with him to receive any such. All the boarders belong to the United Church. The day pupils are Presbyterians, except two, of whom one is a Methodist and the other a Roman Catholic. The master has a salary of £46 2*s.* 6*d.*, paid by the Earl of Roden. He has also a house and garden valued at about £50.

Eyrecourt, County of Galway.

This school, which is under the superintendence of the Commissioners of Education, owes its origin to a private endowment, made by the Rev. R. Banks, under his will, in 1730. It originally amounted to a sum of £700; but the expenditure of £200, out of the principal, in repairs, reduced it to £500, which is now invested in Government three per cent. stock. Tables, vol. iii. p. 691.

Our Assistant Commissioner represents the state of instruction as being very unsatisfactory; and points out that the school in no way corresponds with the intentions of the testator. By his will, the above sum of £700 was left "for the founding of a charity school at Eyrecourt, for the maintenance and education of such poor children of the parish of Donanaghta, as the Bishop of Clonfert, John Eyre, Esq., the minister of that parish, or their successors should think fit." Neither the private trustees thus named, nor the public Board under whose jurisdiction this school was subsequently placed, appear to have taken any efficient steps for

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carrying out these directions. Instead of being a school for the poor, and therefore one giving an education adapted to their wants, it was from the commencement made a classical school; both the first master and his successors were clergymen. It followed from the neglect of the Trustees and Commissioners, that the direction of the testator, as to its being a charity, that is to say, a free school, was disregarded; and, in fact, no free scholars are received into it. With the very limited funds applicable to its support, there might now be some difficulty in maintaining it, even as a school for the poor, in conformity with testator's wishes; but as at present constituted, it is not only wholly at variance with these, but incapable of answering the ends, which, as a grammar school, it ostensibly proposes to accomplish.

The school is attended by ten day pupils, six of whom belong to the United Church, and four are Roman Catholics; none of them being free. There is but one boy learning Greek and Latin, and his proficiency in those departments is as low as that of the others in English, which could scarcely be more unsatisfactory than it is. It is stated, in our Assistant-Commissioner's report, that the mode of procuring masters is, that each one purchases the "good will" of his predecessor; this being the case, it is not surprising that the school should be in its present condition.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 692.

Kilkenny Grammar School, County of Kilkenny.

Kilkenny College was endowed, in 1684, by the Duke of Ormonde, who granted a large mansion, with some land adjoining, and certain rectories and tithes in the counties of Kilkenny and Tipperary, for the support and maintenance of a school, the masters to be appointed, from time to time, by the founder and his male heirs, and, on failure of such, by the Provost, Fellows, and Scholars of Trinity College, Dublin. The masters were to be at liberty to make the same charges for pupils as those at "the most remarkable schools in Dublin;" but the children of the inhabitants of Kilkenny were to be admitted at half these fees, and those in the service of the Duke of Ormonde gratis.

Vide, p. 181, *infra*.

By the failure of the Duke of Ormonde's male issue, the patronage of the school became vested in Trinity College. The Commissioners of 1791 report that this school, formerly of great celebrity, had been suffered to decline in the time of the predecessor of the then master, Dr. Ellison, but that under his care it had revived. At that time there were thirty-six boarders and twenty-nine day scholars in the establishment. When Dr. Ellison was appointed, in the year 1773, he found the schoolhouse in ruins; but succeeded, after several applications, in obtaining a grant of £5,064 from the Irish Parliament for building a new one. With this grant the present spacious schoolhouse, capable of containing about fifty boarders, was erected.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. pp. 362, 374.

Com. Educ. 1807–12. Rep. p. 282.

When the Commissioners of 1807–12 made their report, the attendance, under a different master, had declined to twenty boarders and twenty-four day scholars, none of whom were free; this school having shared in the decline that the grammar schools, (except those in the North of Ireland,) appear to have experienced in the interval between 1791 and the Report of 1807–12.

At our public Court at Kilkenny we examined the master of this school, and it appeared from his evidence that during the fourteen years he had kept the school, there had been no inspection or visitation, either on the part of the Provost of Trinity College or of the Commissioners of Education. We have elsewhere noticed this want of visitation.

Ev. 97, 112. *Vide* p. 181, *infra*.

Our Assistant Commissioner notices the condition of the school as very unsatisfactory, as regards both attendance and inspection. The rules of the foundation are completely set at nought. These direct, amongst other matters, visitations at least yearly, but none such take place. The number of pupils on the roll is given as being forty-seven, of whom thirty-two are boarders, fifteen day scholars, and none free; but only thirty pupils were present when our Assistant Commissioner inspected the school. All the pupils are returned as members of the United Church, but it is stated that there is no restriction on the attendance of persons of any religious persuasion. The principal master receives the salary of £140, late currency, originally paid by the founders, and has, besides, house and lands worth about £100 yearly. The pupils are taught classics, French, German, arithmetic, and mathematics; the state of instruction is satisfactory, except in classics and English literature.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 149.

Kinsale, County of Cork.

The school at Kinsale was endowed by Edward Southwell, Esq., afterwards Lord de Clifford, in 1767, with £30 a-year, and has also been assisted by the Corporation by an annual contribution of £20. Besides the rent-charge, Lord de Clifford granted a house, garden, and other premises for the support of the school; and stated that the grant was made in consideration of the "friendship and generosity of the Corporation" in transferring to him the right of presentation to a certain living. The master's salary of £30 (late Irish currency) is paid by the present Municipal Commissioners representing the old Corporation, who also exercise the right of appointing the master, though this was reserved to Lord de Clifford and his heirs male by the deed of 1767. It does not appear whether the £20 a-year, stated by the Commissioners of 1791, to have been paid to the school, was secured to it. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 373.

Our Assistant Commissioner's report is unfavourable, as regards both the condition of the schoolhouse, the numbers attending, and the state of instruction. The number present when he inspected, was nine day pupils, of whom five belonged to the United Church, and four were Roman Catholics. There was one free pupil, nominated by the master. The total number on the roll was fourteen, none of whom were boarders. The attendance in 1788 was twenty, of whom four were boarders. Tables, vol. iii. p. 317.

Lifford, County of Donegal.

Lifford school is one of the earliest private endowments, having been made in the reign of James I., by the will of Sir Richard Hansard, in 1619, who left £30 a-year for the support of a master, and £20 for an usher, for instruction in learning at a free school at Lifford, where all the children in the parish of Clonleigh were to be entitled to a gratuitous education. When the Commissioners of 1791 reported, there were no free pupils in this school, the total attendance then being eighteen, of whom six were boarders. Ev. 11405. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 373.

The Commissioners of 1807–12 notice this school as being at that time in a very unsatisfactory condition. While the head master received his salary of £30, and the usher received £20, the business of the school was in reality conducted by a third person at a salary of £6, who taught writing and arithmetic only to some children of the town. The Commissioners accordingly observed that the intention of the founder to establish a classical school at Lifford was not carried into effect. Ev. 11405.

The Commissioners of Education state in their Reports for 1837-8 and 1840, that complaints having been made to them, on the part of the inheritor of the estate of the original founder, of the inefficient manner in which the school was conducted, they held a visitation, and ascertained that the master had been guilty of much neglect. His resignation, however, rendered further proceedings unnecessary; and the attendance at the school, which for some years before had been so low as three pupils, rapidly increased. Ev. 11408–10.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that this school was closed at the time of his inspection. It was in operation from the year 1697, and for some time went by the name of grammar school, and is so noticed by the Commissioners of 1791, and by those of 1807–12. It was kept by a classical teacher about 1840. The Earl of Erne, exercising the right of nomination which belonged to the Bishop of Derry, converted the establishment into an English school for boys and girls, and appointed a master and mistress. Both were dismissed in 1856 for alleged inefficiency on the part of the schoolmistress, and no master or mistress was appointed by the Earl of Erne. Our Assistant Commissioner suggests that the dwelling-house attached to the school, and now occupied by a former master, who pays no rent, should be rendered productive to the endowment. Tables, vol. iii. p. 527.

After our Assistant Commissioner's visit in 1857, the school was re-opened under the management of the Bishop of Derry, the visitor, who considers that under the terms of the will it ought to be an English school and not a grammar school.

Lismore, County of Waterford.

The Lismore school was assisted by the Earl of Cork about 1610, and was endowed as a free school under his will in 1642. It is referred to in the Appendix to the Report of the Commissioners of 1791, where it is mentioned that the en- Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 374.

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dowment consisted of a rent-charge of £30, and that there was half an acre of land in connexion with the schoolhouse. The school then appeared to be in a flourishing condition, attended by twenty-seven boarders, eight day boys, and five free pupils.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 408.

Its present condition is very different. Our Assistant Commissioner reports, there are now no pupils, nor have there been any since 1851. The master, however, is paid his salary of £30 by the Duke of Devonshire, who also allows him a house rent-free, and keeps it in repair. The schoolhouse is beautifully situated, and kept in good order. But it appears that the master has fallen into pecuniary difficulties, and has not exerted himself to fulfil the duties of his office, and thus the school, which for several years had been declining, has at length ceased to be attended by pupils. It is said that the master aspired to have the school (a free one by the terms of the foundation), attended by members of the highest classes alone, and actually discouraged the attendance of the middle and lower classes. The master, as in most free schools, does not admit the right of any one to nominate free pupils, and he retains the entire endowment for himself, though £10 of it is intended for an usher.

The annual returns made by the master of this school to the Commissioners of Education must have shown to them the declining state of the school, and the ultimate discontinuance of the attendance of pupils. The Commissioners are responsible, as visitors of the school, for having taken no step for the removal of the master under such circumstances; and we think that proceedings should now be taken with a view to his dismissal. Vigilance at an earlier period on their part would also have prevented the master from converting a free school into a private one, and denying the right of free pupils to be admitted.

Midleton, County of Cork.

The school at Midleton was endowed towards the close of the seventeenth century—a period to which the establishment of the principal endowments of classical schools by private individuals, is referable. It was founded by the Countess of Orkney, who granted certain lands in the county of Cork to trustees, to build a free school, and pay the master a salary of £100; the ushers and writing master, £20 each; £10, for the repair of the schoolhouse; and £50, for exhibitions in the Dublin University—not exceeding £15 each.

Ev. 17603.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 362.

The Commissioners of 1791 observe that the £50 for exhibitions had then for some time ceased to be paid. The school, which, in 1783, contained sixty-five boarders, had fallen off so considerably, that, in 1788, there were only ten boarders and eight day boys—six of the latter being free.

Ev. 17605.

Com. Educ. 1807–12, Rep. pp. 283–4.

The state of the school continued unsatisfactory, and the Commissioners of 1807–12 report that it then had but fourteen scholars. The money left for exhibitions was still diverted from its legitimate use, and principally employed according to the master's statement, in the repairs of the schoolhouse—which notwithstanding, continued in a very bad state.

Ev. 17604, 17612.

The lands of this endowment had been let in 1710 and 1712, on two leases, renewable for ever, at a rent of £200, and renewal fines of £25 each. The lands thus let, becoming worth £2,000 a-year, an attempt was made by the Commissioners of Education, in 1828, to break the leases which had thus been granted with a total disregard to the interests of the endowment. A course of litigation was commenced in Chancery, and Lord Plunket decided in support of the leases. An appeal to the House of Lords against this decision was unsuccessful, and the leases were established. The charity is thereby limited to the small income now derived from the reserved rents.

Ev. 17613.

Ev. 17614–18.

The school had been almost in abeyance, for a great many years, until the appointment of Mr. Turpin, in 1830, who raised it to great prosperity, but afterwards it declined under him, and finally he resigned in 1847, when the present master was appointed.

Ev. 17619.

Ev. 17622–4.

In their Report for 1847, the Commissioners of Education mention the appointment of this master, and state that they had improved the schoolhouse for him at considerable expense. For several years afterwards the school is noticed as being well attended; but, as in the case of the previous master, this improvement was not permanent.

Two of our body visited the Midleton school, and instituted some inquiries

into its condition. We found the state of instruction unsatisfactory. In consequence of the feeling respecting it in the neighbourhood, we also held a special Court at Midleton, and received evidence as to its state.

The subject of our inquiry was as to a charge that certain irregularities had taken place in the management of the school, and that the master was inattentive. The school is, by its constitution, under a board of local visitors, who had held a visitation upon the master; but whilst they censured him to a certain extent, the majority of them did not feel bound to call on him to resign, as they had power to do.

Ev. 17625 *et seq.*

Ev. 17632, 17781.

It appears that these local visitors had come to the resolution of visiting the school periodically, which, however, they failed to do.

Ev. 18303, 18306.

As the result of our inquiry, we think that there was elicited sufficient proof to show that the present master has not evinced sufficient energy in maintaining discipline, or zeal in the discharge of his duties, and that he unnecessarily gave dissatisfaction to some of the inhabitants of Midleton. We think, however, it is a case in which the Commissioners having charge of endowed schools might exercise the power of removing a master from one school to another. The charges established against the master were, we think, sufficient to show his unfitness for conducting a school at Midleton, but were not of such a nature as to affect his moral character, or his usefulness in conducting a school elsewhere under an efficient system of inspection.

The proceedings before the local visitors indicate that inspection would in general be more efficiently and rigorously carried on by persons who had no personal connexion with the master, or with the locality.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that only eight day boys and fifteen boarders are attending the school, as shown by the numbers present when he inspected. The number on the roll exceeded that of those present by only two. Of the eight day boys, six are free, indicating that only two boys from the town where the school is situated, pay for their education, whilst in 1831 there were as many as thirty-seven day boys who paid.

Par. Pap. 1831, No. 106.

Navan, County of Meath [see *Ballyroan*].

New Ross, County of Wexford.

Amongst the schools visited by us, was one at New Ross, which was returned by the Commissioners of Education as having been under their jurisdiction in 1821 and 1831, but which has been omitted in their returns for 1849 and 1853, and in the returns that they have made to us. It does not appear how a school once placed under the Commissioners of Education, by the provisions of the Act of Parliament, could cease to be subject to their authority.

Par. Pap. 1821, 553.

Par. Pap. 1831, 106.

Par. Pap. 1849, 607.

Par. Pap. 1853, 400.

In 1713, John Ivory, Esq., granted certain premises in the town of New Ross, which had formerly been an Augustinian Abbey, for the support of a free grammar school, in which four members of the United Church should be entitled to receive a gratuitous education. The management of the school and the execution of the trust are confided to the trustees, and to the Corporation and Vicar of New Ross—the appointment of the master, in case of default, being vested in the Bishop of the Diocese; but the Corporation, represented by the present Town Commissioners, seem now to act alone, although in strictness some of the powers they exercise, such as that of leasing the premises, belong to the heirs of the trustees. It is generally believed in the town of New Ross, that the endowment has been encroached upon by neighbouring proprietors, but the description of the premises in the deed of endowment is not sufficiently definite to afford the means of tracing out their boundaries. In the Report of 1791 this school is noticed. It was then attended by thirty-four day pupils, of whom four, the prescribed number, were free. The school has since declined considerably. The attendance now is about only half of what it was in 1791, and though classics are part of the course of instruction, they are not cultivated to any great extent.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. 373.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 249.

Our Assistant Commissioner found the school buildings in bad repair, and the rest of the premises, which constitute the endowment, in such a condition that the present rent of £20 a-year, cannot be calculated on for a continuance. There were present in the school fourteen pupils, of whom two were boarders. Of the

day pupils, five, being one more than the number required by the foundation, are free. On the roll there are nineteen pupils, all of whom belong to the United Church. The master, besides pupils' fees, has no endowment but the rent of such portion of the charity estate as is let, and the benefit of occupying the remainder, the endowment in all being worth to him at least £44 a-year.

Waterford Corporation Free Grammar School, County of Waterford.

Ev. 155.

Ev. 366–71.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 374.

Waterford Endowed School has been supported by the Corporation of that City from a very early period, but how or when the endowment arose is unascertained. In the books of the Corporation, so far back as the year 1669, and during many subsequent years, there are notices of appointments of masters, and there are several minutes relating to the schoolhouse. The Commissioners of 1791 state, with regard to this endowment, that in Waterford there was a grammar-school, supported by the Corporation, who paid the master £50 a year (Irish,) and allowed him the use of a house; and that the school was then attended by ten boarders and twenty day pupils, none of whom were free.

Ev. 252–3.

Ev. 371, 414.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 410.

After the Municipal Reform Act, the new Corporation of Waterford passed a resolution against paying the master's salary, or allowing him for the taxes of the schoolhouse; they afterwards took possession of the schoolhouse by ejectment, and placed the master under rent for it. The master took proceedings against the Corporation, and succeeded in establishing a claim to his salary for his own tenure of the office, the question as to the permanence of the endowment remaining undecided.

Ev. 161.

This school has been, and is still, numerously attended, and has at times enjoyed a high classical reputation. But the diminution of the endowment in the manner just described, and the deterioration which has taken place in the part of the town adjoining the schoolhouse are unfavourable to the efficiency of the school at the present day. We have already recommended that the Diocesan Endowments for the Dioceses of Waterford, Lismore, Cashel, and Emly, which have been long dormant, should be united for a district school at Waterford, thus supplying, in this important city, the educational wants of the middle classes, for which the Corporation school was intended.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 411.

Ev. 155.

Our Assistant Commissioner found sixty-one pupils present, six of whom were boarders, and none free. The number on the roll was sixty-nine. There are no Roman Catholic pupils, fifty, of those on the roll, being members of the United Church, and nineteen, Dissenters of various denominations. There is a small scholarship attached to this school of £15 a year (late currency), endowed in 1787 by Dr. Downes, and subject to the condition that the holder must reside in the University of Dublin. Being held for seven years, the vacancies do not occur sufficiently often to supply an adequate stimulus to the studies of the pupils. The Corporation pays the master £46 3*s.* 1*d.*, and allows him £18 9*s.* 2*d.* for premiums for pupils; he is also paid £46 3*s.* 1*d.* as lecturer in the Church of St. Olaves, this office being connected with that of the mastership of the school. The master has classical, English, and French assistants; and the state of education in the school is satisfactory.

Youghal Collegiate and Commercial School, County of Cork.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 373.

The school at Youghal was assisted by the Earl of Cork, about the year 1610, with a grant of £30 a-year and a schoolhouse, and attracted the favourable notice of King James I. who in 1613, directed the Lord Deputy to promote the success of the institution, by granting a charter of incorporation, and a licence to hold lands, notwithstanding the Mortmain laws. These directions, however, would appear not to have been complied with. The original grant was confirmed by the Earl of Cork in 1642, when, by his will, he specially charged his heirs with the payment of £30 to the free school at Youghal, £20 of which was directed to be for the master, and £10 for the usher.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 320.

This school was inspected by our Assistant Commissioner, from whose report it appears that at present there are no free pupils, and no boarders. The master does not admit that he is bound to educate any free pupils, notwithstanding the terms of the foundation. There were thirty-one day pupils present out of thirty-seven on the roll; and of these twenty belong to the United Church, and eleven are Roman Catholics. With regard to the state of instruction, he observed

that the pupils were not much advanced in classics, though not more backward than might naturally be expected from their extreme youth. In most of the branches of English education they seemed very well instructed, as also in algebra and the elements of astronomy.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS UNDER COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS UNDER THE COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

These schools consist of two classes—the Tenantry schools, established on the estates of endowed schools, and some English schools, of private foundation. The Tenantry schools are those in connexion with the school estates of Armagh, Raphoe, and of the Preston endowment; and the English schools are those of Athlone, Betaghstown, Cloyne, Kilworth, Rathvilly, and Tullyvin. There is one of the Royal schools—that of Carysfort—conducted as an English school, which we notice in connexion with this class.

Vide p. 121 *infra*.

Athlone, St. Mary's Parochial Boys' School, County of Westmeath.

So far back as 1705 a private endowment for a school existed at Athlone, an ancestor of Lord Castlemaine, William Handcock, Esq. having in that year left a rent-charge of £20 for that purpose. This endowment is noticed in the Appendix to the Report of the Commissioners of 1791, and it is there stated that the Corporation of Athlone allowed the schoolmaster £10 a-year during pleasure, in addition to the rent-charge of £20 a-year. The school was then attended by seven boarders and sixteen day boys, and was returned as a grammar school. At present, however, the school supported by this endowment is an English parochial one, which was built in the year 1826 by aid from the Lord Lieutenant's School Building Fund, the Corporation having executed on the occasion a grant of a site for the building.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 374.

As the will of Mr. Handcock required that the master, in order to be entitled to the rent-charge, should be a graduate of Dublin or Cambridge University, the expedient has been adopted of appointing the rector to the office, leaving him to hand over the salary to the parish schoolmaster.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 228.

The pupils were mere infants, and could not spell without the book. The school is under the care of the Church Education Society. A great difference is observable between the number of pupils present and those on the roll, our Assistant Commissioner having found but four present, out of sixteen on the roll. The rector should, we think, be removed from the mastership as he does not perform the duties, and an attempt should be made to manage the endowment in conformity with the intentions of the founder, by the appointment of a University graduate, to conduct a school suitable for the middle classes.

Ibid.

Betaghstown, Clane, County of Kildare.

The endowment of the school of Betaghstown at Clane, arose under the will of Patrick Hewetston, Esq., who died in 1783, having left all his property towards the support of a charity school for as many poor boys and girls as his trustees should think fit and convenient; the children to be instructed in the Protestant religion, and apprenticed to Protestant masters and mistresses.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 135. Com. Educ. 1807–12, Rep. p. 310.

This charity has been the subject of much litigation—in the first instance, on behalf of the trustees of the charity, to obtain control over the property; and in the second, on behalf of the Commissioners of Education, to prevent the trustees from misapplying the funds they had recovered. It appears that the acting trustee, the Bishop of Kildare, expended large sums out of the funds of this endowment, in maintaining, first, a manufacturing, and, then an agricultural establishment, for the employment of poor children; but the Commissioners, considering that these proceedings were not in accordance with the trusts of the will, commenced a suit in Chancery to put a stop to them. In 1824 they obtained a decree in their favour; the Bishop was directed to refund the sum lost by his method of administering the charity; and a scheme was settled by the Court for its management, according to which fifteen boys are admissible on the foundation, to be selected by the trustees from amongst the Protestant children in the diocese of Kildare.

Our Assistant Commissioner found the number in attendance eleven, exclusive of two sons of the master, and one pupil, who was a day boy. He states, that though the boys were formerly apprenticed, this practice has of late been discontinued for want of funds, a circumstance which appears extraordinary when we consider that the number of pupils is not large, and the value of the endow-

ment very considerable; but in this endowment, as in the case of many others, the expenses incurred in managing it, and supporting the teachers leave but little remaining for any other purpose.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports, that the state of instruction in the school is satisfactory.

Cloyne, County of Cork.

The endowment of Cloyne school is derived under the will of Dr. Crowe, formerly Bishop of Cloyne, who, in 1719, left property for clothing, educating, and binding to apprenticeship poor boys of diocese of Cloyne. The endowment at present produces about £150 a-year.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 315.

The managers are the Chancellor of the Cathedral for the time being, and a visiting committee of clergymen appointed by the Bishop. Our Assistant Commissioner observes, that rules have been introduced providing that all the pupils must be instructed according to "the formularies and doctrines of the Church of England and Ireland, as at present by law established;" thus making the endowment exclusive, although the will of the founder contains no such direction.

The number of pupils now on the roll is twenty-three, none of whom are boarders; and of these but eleven were present at the time of inspection. It is said that the school is crippled for want of funds, and it was found necessary to close it some years ago, and employ the funds of the endowment in payment of past liabilities. At present it appears that the income of the school is exhausted by the payment of the master's salary and the outgoings in connexion with the estate, nothing being applied towards clothing and apprenticing children, which are two of the primary trusts of the endowment.

Kilbricken, Tenantry School, Clonenagh, Queen's County.

Ev. 4915.

The Kilbricken Tenantry school was established by the Commissioners of Education in 1850, on the estate which constitutes the Navan and Ballyroan endowment. It was designed for the benefit of the children on the estate, and provided with accommodation for a schoolmaster and schoolmistress. The school was placed in connexion with the Board of National Education, and so brought under their inspection; the Dean of Clonfert and the priest of the parish being appointed managers. At first the attendance was numerous, but it afterwards declined considerably, and now varies from one-half to about a third of its original number.

Ev. 4931–45, 5010–25.

Ev. 4916–9.

We received evidence at our Public Court with regard to this school. It appeared that shortly after its establishment arrangements were made to provide the children—all of whom were Roman Catholics—with instruction in the catechism of their church at stated hours in the schoolhouse; this, however, was objected to by the Dean of Clonfert, one of the managers, who feared that if the catechism were introduced the school would be withdrawn from the National Board, and placed on a footing still less in accordance with the feelings of the people of the neighbourhood. In consequence of this disagreement between the managers, the school ceased apparently to enjoy the confidence of the Roman Catholic clergy and the attendance rapidly declined.

Ev. 5027–32.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 210.

Our Assistant Commissioner observes that it appears to him that so long as the use of the catechism is not allowed on the same principles as it is permitted in schools exclusively under the National Board, the intention of the Commissioners of Education, to afford to the tenantry of the Ballyroan estate, the benefit of instruction near their homes, must be frustrated. This is much to be regretted, as in the meantime the aid so liberally contributed by the Commissioners of Education produces but a small portion of the advantages they designed to secure. The master receives from them £20 a-year, with a house and garden worth annually about £5, and the mistress has £12 a-year; the former receiving, in addition, £38 from the National Board, and the latter £15.

Our Assistant Commissioner found sixteen boys and twenty-four girls in attendance. They were in the same schoolroom, and superintended by the master, as the mistress was sick. The boys generally read well, but, except in this particular, very little proficiency seemed to have been made by them. The total number of boys on the roll was forty-six, all of whom were Roman Catholics but two; and the number of girls on the roll was thirty-three, being exclusively Roman Catholics. All the pupils, both boys and girls, are free.

Kilworth, County of Cork.

Kilworth school was endowed in 1817, by the Earl of Mountcashel with a site, which was granted to the minister and churchwardens of the parish and their successors. The Association for Discountenancing Vice gave £50 (Irish) towards building the schoolhouse. The school is also assisted by an annual sum of £15 15*s.*, the interest of a sum of money left by the Rev. Mr. Moore for general charitable purposes, but applied exclusively to this school.

Our Assistant Commissioner found everything in connexion with the school in an unsatisfactory condition. The schoolhouse was very dirty. Out of twenty-four pupils on the roll—all of whom were free—only eight were present, four boys and four girls. These were very young, and the state of their education was extremely backward. This school is inspected by the Church Education Society. Tables, vol. iii. p. 317.

Mullaghmore Tenantry School, County of Armagh.

Mullaghmore Tenantry school was established by the Commissioners of Education for the benefit of the children of the tenantry on the Armagh Royal School estate. They mention, in their Report for 1836, that having received numerous memorials from the tenants, applying for the endowment of a school for their children, they had acceded to their application, having first taken the opinion of the Attorney-General as to the legality of such an application of their funds. The schoolhouse was built in 1840. Ev. 9350.

Our Assistant Commissioner found that the attendance at the boys' school was twenty-two, the number on the roll being thirty-six. All the pupils were free; and—with the exception of four, who belong to the United Church—all were Presbyterians. The master's salary is £35, and he has a house and garden, worth to him about £5 annually; the schoolmistress receives £20 a-year. The school is under the inspection, and subject to the rules, of the Church Education Society.

At the girls' school only nine were present, out of thirty-eight on the roll, and were all free. Of the pupils, thirty-three were Presbyterians, four belonged to the United Church, and one was a Roman Catholic. The very small number present in both schools may be accounted for by the circumstance that there was no fire kept up in the schoolroom. When the Inspector of Estates visited it in the summer he found the attendance large, and the school in a more satisfactory state. The master's salary had been raised £5 by the Board in order to enable him to supply fuel; but he states that when the advance was made he heard nothing as to any such condition. Appendix, p. 24.

As this school was founded by the Commissioners of Education for the tenantry on a Royal School estate, who are of different religious persuasions, it should not, we think, have been placed under the inspection and control of an exclusive body such as the Church Education Society.

Rathvilly Boys' School.—Rathvilly Girls School, County of Carlow.

The Rathvilly and Kilworth schools appear to be the only endowment of those actually under the superintendence of the Commissioners of Education which are not mentioned in the Reports of 1807–12, with the exception of the tenantry schools, which they themselves founded. They furnish one of the few instances, too, in which the Board has acted in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 3rd Geo. IV. c. 79, sec. 11, which extended their powers to endowments subsequent to 1813. This endowment arose, in 1814, under the will of Benjamin D'Israel, Esq., who left £3,000 to procure a site, build a schoolhouse, and pay a teacher to educate poor children, in the neighbourhood of Rathvilly, in the county of Carlow. The Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests instituted a suit to have the trusts of Mr. D'Israel's will carried into execution, and they obtained a decree to that effect, which also directed that the testator's heir should be associated as a trustee of the charity with the bishop of the diocese, who had been named by the testator. A site, of eight acres, was purchased, the schoolhouse completed in 1826, and the residue of the bequest invested in consols, yielding £91 7*s.* 8*d.* per annum. Of this income, £60 is expended in payment of the teachers; the master of the boys' school and the mistress of the girls school having each £30; and £10 in addition being allowed to them for fuel. They have also house accommodation, and the use of the eight acres attached to the school.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS UNDER COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION.

Parl. Pap. 1831, No. 106.
Parl. Pap. 1849, No. 607.
Parl. Pap. 1853, No. 400.
Tables, vol. iii. p. 10.

Our Assistant Commissioner found only twenty pupils present, seven in the boys' school and thirteen in the girls', the numbers on the roll being but seventeen and fifteen respectively. This attendance contrasts strongly with that shown in a return to Parliament in 1831, when the number was 100, and in returns for several subsequent years, when it was nearly as large. With regard to the course of instruction, which is very elementary, the boys in general proved backward, but the answering of the girls was more satisfactory.

It is to be observed that the schools are occasionally supplied with books by the Church Education Society, and are, at present, under its inspection There is nothing in the terms of the will to make these schools exclusive; yet we find that the pupils, with the exception of one Roman Catholic in the boys' school, are members of the United Church. We think that the placing of non-exclusive schools under the inspection of an exclusive Society is an objectionable proceeding on the part of the Commissioners.

There is also a division of responsibility as to the funds of the endowment, the salaries being paid through the Bequest Board. The property ought, we think, to have been conveyed to the Commissioners of Education, and the entire control of the funds vested in them.

Townawilly Tenantry School, County of Donegal.

Ev. 11219.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 520.

Appendix, p. 30.

In their Report for 1848, the Commissioners of Education, after alluding to the unsatisfactory condition of the Raphoe Royal school estate, and the efforts they had made to improve it, mention that they had built a substantial schoolhouse, which was then largely attended by the children of the tenantry. The attendance of pupils continues good to the present time; but our Assistant Commissioner reports that the circumstances of the school are such that the pupils can derive little benefit from their attendance; for while nearly all in the junior classes could speak only Irish, the master was totally unacquainted with that language. The pupils were able to read and spell; but they appeared to do so merely from rote, without understanding the sense of the words, and were only commencing to learn writing. The Inspector of Estates notices the attendance of the school as being very large, and observes that the master informed him that nearly one-third of the youngest children who had spoken Irish only, were rapidly learning to speak English. The total number on the roll was eighty-seven, of whom forty-nine were present, twenty-one being boys and twenty-eight girls. All are free, and all but three are Roman Catholics. The master has a salary of £20 from the Commissioners, and a house with land, worth £6 annually.

Tullyvin, County of Cavan.

The school of Tullyvin was endowed in 1803 by William Moore, Esq., who left the sum of £4,000, now increased to £8,505 5*s.* 11*d.*, to be invested, and the interest to be applied in payment of a salary not exceeding £50, Irish, to a Protestant master to teach Protestant children, in purchasing school requisites, and some articles of clothing for the children, and in providing board and lodging for those of the pupils whose parents resided at too great a distance to admit of their daily attendance.

The Commissioners of 1807–12, in their Thirteenth Report, notice this endowment as being then in a very unsatisfactory condition. The schools, one for boys and the other for girls, were each kept in a cabin, and the intentions of the founder did not appear to be carried out, either as regarded the religion of the pupils, or the assistance to be afforded to them. The Commissioners of Charitable Donations were then engaged in a suit against Mr. Moore's executors, for the purpose of securing the principal sum of £4,000, which constituted the endowment. It appeared that the annual expenditure on the schools was not equivalent to the interest of the bequest; and altogether that the trusts of Mr. Moore's will were not properly carried out.

After the Tullyvin endowment came under the management of the Commissioners of Education, considerable delay took place before a schoolhouse was built. In several reports they refer to a treaty in which they were engaged for the purchase of a site, which ultimately, as stated in their Report for 1821, they were unable to carry out; the owner being unable to make out a clear unincumbered title to the land. They then purchased a site contiguous to the estate of the founder, on which finally the schoolhouse was built.

Our Assistant Commissioner found the schoolhouse in good repair, and in every respect suitable; but he reports the state of instruction as not satisfactory. The boys answered well in the first elements of English education, but of arithmetic and geography they knew very little. The pupils in the girls' school were much more backward. The master receives a salary of £46, and has a house and garden, worth annually £6. The salary of the mistress is £30. The school is not under any inspection. It was attended when the Assistant-Commissioner was there by thirty-one boys and thirty-six girls, all of whom were day pupils, and all free. The numbers on the roll are sixty boys, and the same number of girls. Of the boys, twelve belonged to the United Church, eleven were Presbyterians, and thirty-seven Roman Catholics; and of the girls, the numbers of each religious persuasion were nine of the United Church, nine Presbyterians, and forty-two Roman Catholics.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 493.

Concluding Observations on the Schools of Private Foundation, under the Commissioners of Education in Ireland.

We give, at the end of this chapter, a table of these schools indicating the result of our inquiries, from which it appears that in the majority of them, the state of instruction is not satisfactory.

We have noticed that in one school the master receives no pupils, and has had none for some years. In another the duties are performed by deputy. In a third a master is retained who receives no boarders, and has lost the confidence of the neighbourhood.

In several free schools, the right of free admission is denied; in all it is left without regulation or public announcement.

In some cases schools, not exclusive in their constitution, have been placed under the control and inspection of an exclusive Educational Society. In others, local visitors have been allowed to neglect the performance of their duties.

While the history and present state of these schools indicate the need of efficient inspection, we find that the Commissioners of Education have almost entirely omitted to exercise, either in person or by deputy, the large powers of visitation vested in them.

Whilst they have thus shown a want of diligence in superintending the schools taken under their care, they have entirely omitted to provide for the protection of a very large number of endowments, which were rendered subject to their jurisdiction.

With respect to this class of schools, we have already recommended that the masters of Athlone, Clonmel and Lismore schools should be dismissed, that the master of Midleton school should be changed to another school, that the schools of Mullaghmore and Rathvilly should be removed from the inspection of the Church Education Society; and that the Navan and Ballyroan endowments should be united for the foundation of a good school at Maryborough.

The intentions of founders, as to free admissions, are very generally evaded; and the trustees, and others charged with the management of endowed schools, ought to take steps to define the limits of the right of free admission, to make them known to the persons interested, and to guard, by examination or otherwise, against any abuse of the privilege of nomination, so as to secure to all those intended to be benefited the full and fair opportunity of sharing in the privilege of free admission.

Carysfort Royal Free English School, Rathdrum, County of Wicklow.

Carysfort School, although one of Royal foundation is conducted merely as an English day school for the benefit of the poor, in accordance with the recommendation made by the Commissioners of 1807–12. It is situate in a remote and mountainous district, six miles from Rathdrum. In 1788, the schoolmaster who had been appointed four years previously, had not kept any school, or even resided in the town, but had intrusted the discharge of the duties to a person to whom he paid £10 a-year.

Com. of Educ. 1807–12, 1 Rep. p. 9. Doc. Ev., vol. ii. p. 347.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports the state of instruction as being very unsatisfactory, and that there seemed to be very little system in the general conduct of the school. Of the 41 pupils on the roll there were 24 present at the time of inspection. The pupils are the children of small farmers and labourers living in the immediate neighbourhood. All who desire it are admitted as free pupils, the number of wh m at present is twenty-nine.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 265.

[illegible]

[illegible] REGULATION OF COMM[illegible]

[illegible] GRAMMAR SCHOOLS [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] For a grammar [illegible] which the ma[illegible] [illegible] member [illegible] when [illegible] Chur[illegible] each religion.

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[illegible] For payment [illegible] Protestant sch[illegible]

[illegible] For payment [illegible] Protestant sch[illegible]

[illegible] For a free scho[illegible] [illegible] school[illegible] [illegible] children [illegible] [illegible] be constanti[illegible]

[illegible] For a free schoo[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] For a free schoo[illegible] [illegible] tions [illegible] C[illegible] [illegible] Dublin.

[illegible] For a free scho[illegible]

[illegible] For [illegible] free [illegible] children of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Clonm[illegible]

[illegible] For a free scho[illegible]

[illegible] For [illegible] Latin [illegible] with an exhib[illegible] [illegible] versity of Du[illegible]

[illegible] For a [illegible]gramma[illegible] which Engli[illegible] [illegible]matics, and [illegible] [illegible]ism are to [illegible]

[illegible] For the mainten[illegible] [illegible]master and ash[illegible] [illegible]ation of child[illegible] [illegible] a free school[illegible]

[illegible] For a charity [illegible]

[illegible] : The Coal Hospital, Dublin.

[illegible] : The Coal Hospital, Dublin.

DUCATION IN IRELAND.

DATION IN OPERATION.

Master.			Pupils.												
					Number.		Religion.				Annual Charges.				
Appointment.	Annual Salary.	By whom paid.	No. of Pupils School-room suited for.	No. of Boarders Dormitories suited for.	Average during current year.	On Roll.	United Church.	Roman Catholic.	Presbyterian.	Others.	Boarders.	Day Pupils.	Free on Roll.	State of Instruction.
Corporation of nity College, Dub- (male issue of der having failed.)	£ s. d. 129 4 7½	Marquess of Ormonde (from Endowment).	55	46	56	47	47	–	–	–	£40.	£8.	-	Classics and English literature unsatisfactory, other branches satisfactory.
—	46 2 6	Earl of Roden.	100	29	27	–	–	–	–	–	£40 to £45.	£4 4s. to £5 5s.	2	Generally satisfactory, but English not sufficiently attended to.
irs male of grantor.	96 2 6 55 7 8 Assistant.	Commissioners of Education. Same.	51	–	5	*5	*5	–	–	–	—	£2.	4	Unsatisfactory.
.	92 6 2 55 7 8 Assistant.	Same. Same.	40	16	7	3	2	1	–	–	—	£4 by one.	2	Very unsatisfactory.
vereign, Recorder, ital Burgess and ar of New Ross, ny three of them, in default, in op of diocese.	20 0 0	From Endowment.	55	18	12	19	19	–	–	–	£31 10s.	£2 2s.	5	Not satisfactory.
—	40 0 0	Duke of Devonshire.	82	23	25	25	15	–	–	10	£42.	£8 8s.	–	Satisfactory.
—	36 18 5	Earl of Cork.	57	–	2	4	–	4	–	–	—	£6 6s.	–	Unsatisfactory.
antor.	27 13 0	Trustees.	82	22	16	14	5	4	–	–	£40.	£6 6s. to £8 8s.	1	Unsatisfactory.
ajority of Gover- s.	92 6 2 20 0 0 Assistant.	Commissioners of Education. Same.	60	22	26	25	23	–	–	–	£40.	£8 8s.	6	Unsatisfactory.
—	27 13 10	Duke of Devonshire.	55	–	34	37	†20	†11	–	–	—	£4 to £6 6s.	–	Satisfactory.
rantors, Duke of onde and heirs, Mayor of Clonmel.	200 0 0	Commissioners of Education.	118	36	‡–	29	25	–	1	1	—	£6 to £8.	10	Satisfactory.
—	30 0 0	Duke of Devonshire.	82	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	—	—	–	No pupils since 1851.
orporation, with nt of bishop of terford.	46 3 1	Corporation of Waterford.	191	31	63	69	50	–	8	11	£40 to £60.	£5 12s. to £9.	–	Satisfactory.
ner of estate, and apse, in Bishop of ther and Provost Trinity College, lin.	70 0 0	From Endowment.	40	17	30	26	23	3	–	–	£35 14s. to £50.	£6 6s.	2	Very satisfactory.
hop of Derry, and lens and Burgesses e borough of Lif-	—	—	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	—	—	–	School closed at time of Assistant Commissioner's visit, but re-opened, in 1857, by Bishop of Derry, as an English School.§
—	13 1 4	Commissioners of Education.	38	–	8	10	6	4	–	–	—	£4.	–	Very unsatisfactory.
			1106	285	311	313	240	27	9	22			32	

nt, the average of 1854, was inserted in Tables, p. 189, for number on roll. † Religion of only those present stated. ‡ No regular register.
§ The Bishop considers that, under the terms of the will, this school ought to be an English school and not a Grammar school.

2.—Alleged Endowment for a Gra

Locality of School.	Description of Alleged Endowment.
Cork; Clonakilty.	School premises from Earl of Shannon.

3. (1°)—English Schools of Pr

Locality of School.	Foundation. Founder.	Date.	Endowment. Acreage.	Estimated Annual Value of School Premises.	Net Annual Income. From Land.	Net Annual Income. From Trust Funds.	Object.
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Leinster:							
Carlow; Bough, Rathvilly, Boys.	Benjamin D'Israel, will.	7 Oct., 1814.	2 1 15	25 1 4	—	91 7 8	For a school, to be conduc the most enlightened and principles, under regula Bishop of Leighlin and and testator's heirs at law.
Carlow; Bough, Rathvilly, Girls.	Identical with preceding.	—	—	—	—	—	Same.
Kildare; Clane, Betaghstown.	Patrick Hewetston, will.	,, 1792.	224 1 20	46 16 9	219 17 8	79 2 8	For a Protestant charity sch poor boys and girls, and th prenticeship to Protestants
Queen's County; Kilbricken, Clonenagh, National, Boys.	Commissioners of Education.	,, 1850.	Site.	7 0 0	(Part of salary from the rents of Cappalunghlin estate.)	—	For education of chi of tenants on Cappal lin school estate.
Queen's County; Kilbricken, Clonenagh, National, Girls.	Identical with preceding.	—	—	—	—	—	Same.
Westmeath; St. Mary's, Parochial, Boys, Athlone.	William Handcock; Corporation.	9 Feb., 1705. 1 July, 1826.	Site and rentcharge.	2 3 3	18 9 2	2 18 0	For a Protestant sch Athlone.
Munster.							
Cork; Cloyne.	Bishop Crowe.	7 March, 1719.	63 1 32 And ground rents of houses.	15 5 7	114 7 5	32 18 6	For clothing, educatin apprenticing poor b diocese of Cloyne.
Cork; Kilworth.	Hon. and Rev. Robert Moore;	11 May, 1814.	—	5 3 0	—	15 15 0	For resident schoolm to teach children, se by minister, Englis arithmetic, and C catechism to childr members of Estab Church.
	Earl of Mountcashel.	31 Dec., 1817.	1 0 0				
Ulster:							
Armagh; Loughgilly, Mullaghmore, Tonantry, Boys.	Commissioners of Education.	1833.	[*0 3 0]	11 2 5	(Salary from rents of Armagh Royal school estate.)	—	For instruction of ch of tenants of Ar Royal school estate.
Armagh; Loughgilly, Mullaghmore, Tonantry, Girls.	Identical with preceding.	—	—	—	—	—	Same.
Cavan; Kildrumsherdan, Tullyvin, Boys.	William Moore.	21 Jan., 1823.	3 0 33	15 0 0	—	255 3 0	For a Protestant scho ter of a public sch Protestant childre for purchase of sch quisities and arti clothing, or pro pupils with boar lodging.
Cavan; Kildrumsherdan, Tullyvin, Girls.	Identical with preceding.	—	—	—	—	—	Same.
Donegal; Townawilly, Tonantry	Commissioners of Education.	1846.	[†14 0 0]	8 2 0	(Salary from rents of Raphoe Royal school estate.)	—	For instruction of cl of tenants of Rapho school estate.
	Total.		909 0 20	137 14 6	352 14 3	477 4 10	

3. (2°)—English Free

			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Wicklow; Fathdrum.	Charles I.	23 August, 1629.	590 1 23	12 7 10	119 1 4	—	For use of a scho appointed by Lord nant to reside and Carysfort. *Vide Tables, Vol. III*

* Included in acreage of Armagh Royal School Estate.

† Part of Raphoe Royal School Estate.

SCHOOL OF PRIVATE FOUNDATION.

Authority on which Inquiry was instituted.	Result of Inquiry.
Commissioners of Board of Education in Ireland Reports, 1807–12; p. 287.	Premises referred to appear not to have been secured for educational purposes.

FOUNDATION IN OPERATION.

Master.			Pupils.											State of Instruction.
			Number.				Religion.				Annual Charges.			
Appointment.	Annual Salary.	By whom paid.	Schoolroom suited for.	Dormitories suited for.	Average during current year.	On Roll.	United Church.	Roman Catholic.	Presbyterian.	Others.	Boarders.	Day Pupils.	Free on Roll.	
—	£ s. d. 30 0 0	Bequest Board.	133	–	6	17	16	1	–	–	—	—	17	Not satisfactory.
—	30 0 0	Bequest Board.	133	–	13	15	15	–	–	–	—	—	15	Satisfactory.
—	52 10 0	Trustees.	60	16	12	12*	12	–	–	–	Free.	£2.	11*	Satisfactory.
—	58 0 0	Commissioners of Education, £20; National Board, £38.	67	–	16	46	2	44	–	–	—	—	46	Not satisfactory.
—	27 0 0	Commissioners of Education, £12; National Board, £15.	67	–	14	33	–	33	–	–	—	—	33	Better than in boys' school.
Lord Castlemaine, with approbation of bishop of Meath.	— 21 7 4 Assistant.	— From endowment, through rector.	–	–	13	16	14	2	–	–	—	—	16	Unsatisfactory.
In trustees.	40 0 0	Trustees.	38	–	11	23	11	–	–	–	—	£1 to £2.	4	Satisfactory.
In minister.	18 0 0	Moore's bequest, £15 15s.; rector, £2 5s.	108	–	20	24	8	–	–	–	—	—	24	Unsatisfactory.
—	35 0 0	Commissioners of Education.	102	–	30	36	4	–	32	–	—	—	36	Satisfactory.
—	20 0 0	Same.	102	–	20	38	4	1	33	–	—	—	38	Satisfactory.
—	46 0 0	Commissioners of Education.	150	–	45	60	12	37	11	–	—	—	60	Not satisfactory.
—	30 0 0	Same.	150	–	–	60	9	42	9	–	—	—	60	Unsatisfactory.
In Commissioners of Education.	20 0 0	Commissioners of Education.	70	–	50	87	2	84	1	–	—	—	87	Very unsatisfactory.
			1180	16	250	467	109	244	86	–			447	

OF ROYAL FOUNDATION.

In Lord Lieutenant.	£ s. d. 55 0 0	Commissioners of Education.	46	–	32	41	41	–	–	–	—	5s.	29	Very unsatisfactory.

* Exclusive of two sons of Master.

Kildare-place Society.

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 1 Rep. 1825, p. 39.

The Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in Ireland, called at first "the Kildare-street Society," and subsequently "the Kildare-place Society," was founded in 1811, and was first assisted by Parliamentary grants in the session of 1814-15. The Commissioners of 1807-12 in their final Report recommended a general system of national education, under which the poorer classes might receive a good secular education, without any interference with their religious belief. They proposed that the pupils should read, among their school books, ample extracts from the Scriptures; but any further religious instruction was to be left to their respective pastors. It was also recommended by the Commissioners, that a board should be appointed to prescribe the mode of education to be pursued in the new schools, and to exercise a general supervision over them, and that this board should be intrusted with the distribution of the funds to be supplied by Parliament for the establishment and support of the schools.

Com. of Educ. 1807–12, Rep. p. 333.

This proposition of the Commissioners, for the appointment of a board, was not adopted, but Parliamentary grants were made in accordance with their suggestion, and intrusted to the Kildare-place Society. At first the Society appears to have had some success in gaining the confidence of the general body of the people, and its schools were attended by Roman Catholics in considerable numbers. When the Commissioners of 1825 conducted their inquiries, they found very strong feelings of hostility directed against the Society; in consequence, chiefly, of its affording aid to schools under the control of other institutions, or individuals, who were supposed to interfere with the religious belief of the pupils. This Report led to the discontinuance a few years afterwards of Parliamentary aid to the Society, which, commencing with a grant exceeding £6,000, in 1815, received as much as £30,000 a-year, before the aid of the State was finally withdrawn from it and transferred to the National Board of Education.

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 1 Rep. 1825, pp. 53–58, 89–90.

Although the Kildare-place Society has ceased to exist, endowments were made in connexion with it, into which we inquired. The Society had, in some instances, made grants for building, on sites leased for the purpose; but most of the leases were of a terminable tenure, and have since expired; although, by an Act passed before the Society was established, facilities were afforded for procuring leases in perpetuity, and thus securing permanently, for educational purposes, whatever schoolhouses were erected wholly or in part at the public expense.

50 Geo. III. c. 33.

We did not receive in our public Courts any evidence with regard to these schools; many of them were not placed on our lists until we had obtained from the Kildare-place Society the leases and other documents securing the school sites and buildings; and from this circumstance, as well as in consequence of the late period at which we obtained the documents referred to, several of the schools, although on our list, were not inspected or inquired into by our Assistant Commissioners. The Society, however, with great courtesy deposited their leases with us, and placed all their books relating to building grants at our disposal. The state of many of the schools, and some particulars with regard to them, will be found detailed in the Tables of Schools and Endowments. From the late period, too, at which the books were obtained from the Society, we were not in all cases able to include in the Tables the information as to the amount of building grants.

We have already noticed that the leases of the Society were generally of a more terminable nature than in the case of other societies and bodies connected with education. From this circumstance, several endowments have expired, and the schoolhouses become the property of private individuals. The leases usually contain a clause entitling the Society to a sum of money if the school should cease to be in operation; but we found that this clause had been rarely acted on, and, although many schools have been discontinued, little money has been recovered by the Society.

Vide p. 195, *infra*. Tables, vol. iii. p. 442.

The site of Freestone Quarry School, in the parish of Skerry, county of Antrim, was sold by the Incumbered Estates Commissioners. By directing the attention of the Society to the circumstance, we enabled them to establish a claim for compensation out of the purchase-money. The Society, after it ceased to receive large grants for the support of schools, does not seem to have taken any systematic steps for protecting the endowments that remained vested in itself, or in trustees on its behalf. This protection might have been readily

secured if the Society, in all cases where they were unable to continue the annual salaries, had intrusted the leases of the school sites, to the Commissioners of Education, who had full jurisdiction to protect the endowments. As the value of the property, consisting of school sites and schoolhouses, still belonging to the Kildare-place Society, is considerable, we recommend that provision should be made for placing these endowments under the care of bodies or persons more directly connected with existing arrangements for education, and who would in consequence be more likely to exercise the activity and vigilance which are necessary for the security of such small endowments, distributed over different parts of the country. KILDARE-PLACE SOCIETY.

We recommend that all the leases, books, and papers, belonging to the Kildare-place Society, and relating to school endowments, should be deposited with the proposed Registrar of School Endowments for registration:

That power should be given by statute to the Kildare-place Society and to trustees for them, to transfer to any trustee or trustees approved of by the Bishop of the diocese in which the endowment is situate, all their authority or interest in any exclusive endowment connected with the United Church:

That all authority or interest of the Society in any non-exclusive endowment should be transferred to the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

LORD LIEUTENANT'S SCHOOL BUILDING FUND.

The creation of the Lord Lieutenant's School Building Fund was one of the plans for affording the means of education to the poorer classes, by means of Parliamentary aid, adopted previous to the establishment of the Board of National Education. In 1819, the Lord Lieutenant was empowered to issue out of the Consolidated Fund sums of money in aid of subscriptions, and voluntary grants for the establishment of schools. The management of this fund was entrusted to three unpaid Commissioners. Most of the funds of the Kildare-place Society, were expended in annual grants to schools previously established, but the Lord Lieutenant's Fund was chiefly applied to the building of schoolhouses, for which sites were granted in perpetuity. No provision was made as to the subsequent support of schools assisted from this fund, or the mode in which they were to be conducted. The original grants were generally made under circumstances which led to the belief that it was not intended to give Roman Catholics control over the schools, or any voice in their management; and accordingly the system did not enjoy the confidence of members of that religious persuasion. The grants by Commissioners of the Lord Lieutenant's School Fund, which in the year 1819 exceeded £3,000, rose to nearly £11,000 in 1824. The Commissioners of Education Inquiry of 1825 having condemned the system under which these grants were made, they were discontinued in 1826.

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 1 Rep. 1825, p. 58.

Ibid. pp. 59–60.

Ibid.

We received evidence in our public Courts with regard to some of the schools originally endowed from this Fund, and they were subsequently inquired into by our Assistant Commissioners.

Committee on Foundation Schools, Rep. 1838, p. 11.

Attanagh School, Queen's County.

Attanagh school was endowed in 1824, the rector of the parish having granted a site in perpetuity on the glebe land, in trust for a schoolmaster to be appointed by him and his successors. This grant was made in consideration of a sum of £40, being advanced from the Lord Lieutenant's School Building Fund, in aid of an equal amount from local subscriptions.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 206.

This school came under our notice at our public Court at Maryborough, and we had a correspondence concerning it with the present rector, who was not aware that any such grant had been made. He also considered that the grant could not have been made in perpetuity, as an incumbent in general had no power to alienate the glebe lands. He was unaware of the Act of 50th Geo. III., c. 33, which empowered the incumbent to grant to the extent of an acre for the accommodation of a school.

Ev. 4737.

Ev. 4743–4.

Shortly after the school was built, the rector converted it into a police barrack, the disturbed state of the neighbourhood having rendered the proximity of such a force desirable. The school was for a time transferred by him to his gate-house, and afterwards a new schoolhouse was built on some land rented for the

Tables, vol. iii. p. 212.

LORD LIEUTENANT'S SCHOOL BUILDING FUND.

purpose. The original schoolhouse is still used as a barrack. The endowment is not in operation, and until our inquiry its very existence was unknown to those who ought to have been most interested in its preservation.

Ballymacbrennan School, Drumbo, County of Down.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 540. Ev. 9702.

Some time before 1823 a school was opened at Ballymacbrennan, towards the building of which £100 (Irish) was contributed from the Lord Lieutenant's Fund. At our public Court at Downpatrick we received evidence from one of the trustees of this school, who stated that the Marquess of Downshire gave a site rent free, and in addition ten acres of land at a low rent. Of late years, however, a rent of a shilling has been charged on the site. The school has been placed under the National Board, and is divided into a school for boys and one for girls, each of which is numerously attended.

Ev. 9701.

Our Assistant Commissioner states that the agent of the Marquess of Downshire informed him that a grant of one acre in perpetuity had been executed by the late Marquess in the year 1823, but that the deed had not been executed by the Bishop or registered. The want of the Bishop's signature makes the grant inoperative as an execution of the statutable powers under Statute 50 Geo. III., c. 33; but as the Marquess of Downshire, in 1823, applied for £100 from the Lord Lieutenant's Fund, which was obtained on the terms of his making a perfect grant, he was bound to procure the Bishop's signature before the money was drawn. His real and personal representatives ought now to carry out the partly performed contract on which the money was obtained. The Commissioners of the Lord Lieutenant's Fund are reprehensible for having advanced the money before the grant was made perfect.

Bryansford School, County of Down.

Ev. 9766.

In 1821, Bryansford school received a grant of £100 (Irish) from the Lord Lieutenant's Fund, which was afterwards paid to the Earl of Roden, on condition of a like sum being raised in the neighbourhood, and a site conveyed in perpetuity.

Ev. 9766–7.

Notwithstanding this fact, letters were read before us from the Earl of Roden, and the rector of the parish, in which it was stated that the school was not endowed.

Ev. 9770, 9776.

Lord Roden's agent was examined before us, and he also stated that there was no endowment. He also mentioned that the school on which the grant had been expended was supported by Lord Roden, and had been turned into an infant-school for girls.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 562.

Our Assistant Commissioner who was directed to inquire into the matter, reports that a grant of a school site was executed by Lord Roden in 1827, but that his lordship and his agent have no recollection of the occurrence, and that they stated they were unable to discover a counterpart in their possession. The original deed was found among the papers of the Commissioners of the Lord Lieutenant's Fund.

Saintfield School, County of Down.

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 1 Rep. 1825, p. 652.

The school at Saintfield is referred to in the Appendix to the First Report of the Commissioners of 1825, where it is stated that £100 (Irish) which was granted out of the Lord Lieutenant's Fund, for building a schoolhouse, and £210 was raised for the same purpose by local subscription. The usual condition of such aid—the grant of a site in perpetuity—seems not to have been adequately secured in this instance.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 566.

The proprietor, Mr. Nicholas Price, put down his name for a subscription towards the school, and "one acre in perpetuity," and the Commissioners of the Lord Lieutenant's Fund advanced the money on the application of the subscribers, before Mr. Price executed the grant of land in perpetuity. Mr. Price's subscription and the other subscriptions were paid, and the schoolhouse completed; a committee of management was appointed, and in 1823 the school was opened.

Ev. 9752.

Subsequently a dispute arose about its management; the committee, contrary to the wishes of Mr. Price, placed the school, in 1849, under the National Board. It continued in connexion with the Board until 1855, when the Committee dismissed the master, and he gave up possession of the house to the agent of Mr. Price, who placed keepers in charge of it. When our Assistant Commissioner called to inspect the school, he was denied admittance.

We entered into a correspondence with the present proprietor, Mr. James B. Price, who admitted the school to be an endowed one, as to part of the original site. A difference of opinion, however, still existed as to the appointment of trustees and the mode in which the school was to be managed. The original committee, appointed by Mr. Nicholas Price, had been composed of the vicar of the parish, two Presbyterian ministers, a Roman Catholic clergyman, and eight of the inhabitants of the town.

LORD LIEUTENANT'S SCHOOL BUILDING FUND.

On the one hand, Mr. James B. Price and the persons who agree with him are desirous that the school should be a Scriptural one, under private management: the other party wish to connect it with the National Board. We pointed out the power of the Commissioners of Education to make regulations with respect to the endowment, and to have the appointment of new trustees enforced by application to the Court of Chancery. We furnished copies of the communications we had addressed to the several parties, in order that they might lay them before the Commissioners.

Pending our inquiries, the committee attempted to obtain possession of the schoolhouse by ejectment proceedings in the local court, but they failed through want of jurisdiction. A difficulty is also likely to arise in the way of the proposed Chancery proceedings in consequence of the Commissioners of Education requiring a guarantee against costs, under a belief on their part, which we have elsewhere shown to be mistaken, that they have no funds to defray them.

Vide p. 243, *infra*.

To facilitate the adjustment of legal questions as to charities of small value, where, as in this case, the schoolhouse and site constitute the whole endowment, we recommend that equitable jurisdiction should be given to the local courts as to all charities below a certain value, but subject to an appeal to the Lord Chancellor.

We also recommend that proceedings in the superior courts as to all charities, should be exempt from court fees and law taxes.

The other schools endowed under the Lord Lieutenant's School Fund, are noticed in the Tables of Schools and Endowments.

These schools were so fully noticed in the Tabular Returns of the Commissioners of Education Inquiry, in 1826, that they were placed on our list at a very early period, and a number of circulars were accordingly addressed to the masters and trustees; but we found that in the districts where the schools were situate, little was known of their existence as endowments. It also appeared from the evidence which came before us at our public Courts, that several of these endowments were in a very precarious state, in consequence of the ignorance that prevailed as to the existence of the deeds by which the sites were granted. The communications which we addressed to the clergy led, in several instances, to applications being made to us for copies of the leases. As these leases were all in a common form, we got the form lithographed, and forwarded copies of the leases to the trustees, and in several cases we received letters from them, stating that they had been thus enabled to recover the patronage or possession of schools, or to re-establish endowments, the existence of which had been previously unknown.

We found, on examining the leases, that in nearly every case the public had been put to the expense of registry for which the solicitor was paid his costs, and the officer of the Registry Office his fees. These leases, too, were made under the statutable leasing powers contained in the 50th Geo. III. c. 33, and in 1824 had a Parliamentary title conferred on them by Statute 4 Geo. IV. c. 86, s. 10. Notwithstanding this apparent security, we found the endowments imperfectly protected. The Commissioners of Incumbered Estates have adopted a rule of allowing no searches to be made for the acts of tenants for life. By this rule, all parties holding under such leases are deprived of the protection of registration, and forced in their own defence to take notice of the proceedings of the Incumbered Estates Court. The present system of registration must be singularly defective, when such searches are thought by the Commissioners to be too expensive to be ordered. The system of registration in Ireland being central merely, and not local at the same time, fails to secure the existence of these endowments becoming known in the various localities, where the knowledge of their existence would have some effect in providing for their protection.

Vide p. 195, *infra*.

The Commissioners of the Lord Lieutenant's School Building Fund, when they ceased to discharge their duties, took no steps to provide for the permanent

LORD LIEUTENANT'S SCHOOL BUILDING FUND.

care of the numerous endowments that had been created under their auspices. The leases, the books of the Lord Lieutenant's Fund Commissioners, and correspondence, might naturally have been transferred to the Commissioners of Education, to whom the papers of the Commissioners of Education Inquiry of 1807–12 were handed over in 1814. All the leases and correspondence connected with the Lord Lieutenant's Fund were left in the custody of the gentleman who had acted as secretary and solicitor; but whilst they were left in his custody no duty was imposed on him of taking any measures to protect the endowments. He was left simply keeper of the papers; and so little protection did this afford, that in one case, as solicitor for a private person, he sold an estate without taking notice of the school site on it, which had been secured under the Lord Lieutenant's School Building Fund, and the deed of which we found amongst the papers handed over to us by him. The insecurity disclosed in these extreme cases applies to all endowments for education, and shows that no measure would more effectually secure these endowments than a general registry of conveyances, based on a public map, recording the transactions of each county or poor law union in the same local office, with a central office, serving the double purpose of supplying a general index and means of reference, and securing the conveyances against any destruction or fraudulent alteration of the local registry.

The neglect of the Commissioners of the Lord Lieutenant's School Building Fund to provide protection for their endowments might have been supplied by the Commissioners of Education, who had full power, under the statute constituting their Board, to take charge of these endowments and provide for their security.

We recommend that all the leases, books, and papers, now in the custody of the gentleman who acted as secretary of the Lord Lieutenant's School Fund Commissioners, be deposited with the Registrar of School Endowments, the trustees of each school being entitled to obtain copies of the leases when duly registered.

We think that copies made and certified by the Registrar of School Endowments should be made by statute *prima facie* evidence in all cases of disputed endowments.

That in all cases where the public money has actually been expended on the promise of a lease, trustees should at once take steps to have the lease of the school made perfect.

That the school leasing powers under the 50th Geo. III. c. 33, should be extended to all school leases whether executed by the Bishop or not, and that all school leases hitherto made without that assent should be deemed as valid and as binding as if the assent had been actually given.

That the Parliamentary title conferred by 4th Geo. IV. c. 86, s. 10, should be extended to all leases of school sites not exceeding two acres of land.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOLS.

In the Report of the Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry, in 1825, the establishment of the association of "The Brothers of the Christian Schools in Ireland" is noticed. The superior of the institute at that time was Mr. Edmond Rice, of Waterford, who, in the year 1802, had submitted the plan of the proposed association to Pope Pius VII., by whom he was encouraged to proceed with it; and by whom it was eventually approved of and confirmed in 1820.

Com. Ir. Ed. Inq. 1 Rep. 1825, p. 85.

1820.

The knowledge communicated in these schools embraces not only reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, and book-keeping, but also an acquaintance with such branches of mathematical science as are suited to the tastes and talents of the pupils, and to the stations in life they are destined to occupy. Geometry, mensuration, drawing, and mechanics become special objects of attention. As to the manner of communicating knowledge, the most approved methods have been carefully reduced to practice. But it is to the communication of religious knowledge that this institution is chiefly devoted. To this object the members direct their main energies. The teachers are all under a religious obligation; they are in the first instance carefully selected and trained, and they are placed under a strict system of organization and discipline.

Since that time the Christian Brothers' schools have considerably extended, and

there are, as we are assured, at present 15,000 pupils in their schools in Ireland, and 3,500 in England. Some of the largest of their schools of which those at Cork are liberally endowed, and have been visited by us, and inquired into at our public courts.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOLS.

Cork, Peacock-lane School, County of Cork.

The Christian Brothers' school at Cork was endowed in 1835, but had been in operation for several years previously, and is noticed in the Second Report of the Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry, 1826. It is there stated that the schoolhouse had been built by subscription, at a cost of £1,500, and was supported by subscriptions and charity sermons. It is now endowed under the will of John Barry, Esq., who left about £9,000 for schools in Cork. The money has since been invested in land, of which the gross rental, in 1853, amounted to £369, and the net rental to £243 5*s.* 2*d.*

Ev. 1242.

Ibid.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports very favourably of the school. In addition to the school first established at Peacock-lane, the Christian Brothers have two other schools in Cork. Besides the endowment before noticed under the will of Mr. Barry, several small bequests have been made for clothing and apprenticing and otherwise benefiting poor children in these schools. All the teachers are Christian Brothers, and they receive no remuneration for their labours, but are supported out of the general funds of the order, the rules prohibiting any member from possessing private property. About one-half of the pupils pay ½*d.* a-week; but, with this exception, all are free. There were present, at the time of inspection, 918, all of whom were Roman Catholics; the attendance was then less than the average, as it was only the first week after vacation. There was no roll, so that the attendance at other times could not be ascertained. The children answered admirably in the course of instruction, which included mensuration and geometry, besides the ordinary branches of English education.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 315.

The instruction given in drawing in the Christian Brothers schools was the best that we found in any schools that we visited.

Limerick, County of Limerick.

The Christian Brothers have established six schools in Limerick, which are now very numerously attended. It was stated in evidence before us that in one of these institutions many of the middle classes of the city of Limerick received their education, until a short time previously, when a classical school was opened as a private speculation, and proved very successful.

Ev. 4681 2, 4711–13.

Our Assistant Commissioner inspected these schools. Some of them appeared to be endowed with sites only, and in other respects supported by funds of the Christian Brothers, not appropriated to any one of the schools in particular. There were present in the school at the time of inspection 1,458 pupils, all of whom but one were Roman Catholics. Most of the pupils paid 1*d.* or ½*d.* a-week for stationery and other school requisites, and as a fund for premiums; but these small payments being optional all the pupils are practically free. Some of the schools are reserved for the reception of very young children, and as these advance they are removed to the other schools. The state of education is noticed as excellent. Several of the pupils could draw very well; their writing was generally unexceptionable; and the answering in Euclid, mechanics, arithmetic, and all the ordinary departments of English education, including dictation, was of a very superior order

Tables, vol. iii. p. 351.

Ibid. p. 352.

Tralee, County of Kerry.

In May, 1855, the Christian Brothers opened a school in Tralee. The principal stated in evidence before us that the school had been originally under the National Board, but was then no longer in connexion with it. The attendance, he stated, had been about 150 when he commenced keeping school, but had since risen to more than 400, the increase being partly composed of the sons of the neighbouring shopkeepers. The course of education comprises "reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic, use of the globes, mensuration, short-hand, book-keeping, all that is included in an English and commercial education."

Ev. 2348–54.

Ev. 2353.

Our Assistant Commissioner visited the school, which was represented to us as being an endowed one, but he learned that the alleged endowment had not as yet come into operation; and that in any case it did not appear that it was intended for the Christian Brothers' School. The endowment consists of about nine

Tables, vol. iii. p. 330.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOLS.

acres, which were granted in 1855 by a Mr. Mulchinock to trustees for the building of a school for sons of poor and industrious Roman Catholics resident in the parish of Tralee; the rents to be applied, until the building should be commenced, towards the clothing of girls receiving instruction in the Tralee Presentation Convent. The trustees cannot obtain possession of the lands for building purposes so long as a lease to which they are subject subsists.

The entire amount of endowments belonging to the Christian Brothers' schools is very moderate. Several of them were inspected by our Assistant Commissioners, and are returned in the Tables of Schools and Endowments. In their general reports, some of our Assistant Commissioners notice the state of instruction in these schools.

Appendix, p. 4. Thus, Mr. Crawford says:—"The most efficient schools, in my opinion, are those managed by the community of Christian Brothers; and I attribute this efficiency to the excellence of their system, the training of the teachers, and their zeal in the cause of education."

Ibid. p. 14. Mr. Pennefather says:—"In the school under the management of the community of the Christian Brothers, which I was directed to visit, I found the teaching efficient, and the masters zealously devoted to their work."

Ibid. p. 11. Dr. M'Blain says:—"I was much impressed with the general aspect presented by these schools, and particularly with their discipline and order, combined with the cheerfulness and docility of the pupils. The boys educated in the Christian Brothers' schools have in general attained an unusual degree of proficiency in the different branches of learning in which they are instructed.

"The superiority of these schools is doubtless, in a great measure, to be ascribed to the extraordinary personal influence exerted by the teachers over the pupils—an influence based on the distinction, that these teachers have devoted their lives to the cause of education, for no private or personal gain or reward, but solely in the discharge of a sacred and self imposed duty.

"In addition to this cause, the Christian Brothers who teach in the schools appear to have been remarkably well trained for the business of instruction; not merely that they are themselves good scholars, but that they have acquired a great aptitude in the art of teaching, and no ordinary skill in devising the most efficient method for the organization and discipline of their school."

With respect to the schools under the care of the Christian Brothers we received no complaints. Our Assistant Commissioners have expressed most favourable opinions as to these schools, in which we entirely concur.

We have reason to believe, that the managers of these schools object to any inspection or other control over them, exercised by an extraneous authority.

Under these circumstances we are of opinion, that it would not be desirable to interfere contrary to the wishes of those most interested in them.

We think that the endowments should be registered by the Registrar of School Endowments, so as to afford to them the protection which an efficient registration would secure.

SCHOOLS UNDER THE BOARD OF NATIONAL EDUCATION.

The Board of National Education was established in 1832, for the purpose of superintending the system of education then commenced upon the basis of the regulations contained in the letter of Lord Stanley, when Chief Secretary for Ireland, addressed to the Duke of Leinster. These schools are open to persons of every religious persuasion, and no pupils are required to attend any religious exercises of which their parents or guardians do not approve; it is also provided that sufficient opportunity shall be afforded to the pupils of each denomination, to receive religious instruction separately at appointed times.

The schools in connexion with the Board in 1856, were 5,245, with 560,134 children, and a Parliamentary grant of £227,641, and they might all have been considered as falling within the limits of our commission. We felt, however, that these schools had been very fully inquired into by Committees of both Houses of Parliament, and that they were under a Board directly responsible to Parliament; we resolved, therefore, to include in our inquiries only those National Schools which had endowments distinct from what was received from the Parliamentary grant. We accordingly applied to the Commissioners of National Education, for a list of such schools. We received from them a return, including as well schools

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that had endowments, as those which were aided by annual subscriptions in addition to the Parliamentary grant; but the Commissioners stated that the information which they possessed did not enable them to distinguish the cases of subscriptions from those of endowments. We accordingly addressed a circular to the managers of the National Schools named in the return, and we found that most of the schools referred to derived the additional assistance from subscriptions or land held at will, and not from permanent endowments of either money or land. The vested National Schools were in a position similar to many of those with respect to which we inquired, the site, with the building, being secured for educational purposes, and in itself constituting an endowment. The number of the vested schools not already on our list, was 1,507. To have directed our Assistant Commissioners to inspect these would have doubled the amount of their labour; on the other hand, to have omitted them altogether from our tables, would have given an erroneous view of the number of endowed schools, and the value of the endowments. We therefore applied to the Commissioners of National Education for a return of all the vested National Schools, distinguishing whether they were leased or assigned to the Commissioners or to trustees; we also inquired as to the annual value of the land and houses vested for educational purposes. We have given, in the Tables of Schools and Endowments, an analysis of this return, showing that 1,507 vested National Schools were exempted by us from the inspection of our Assistant Commissioners, with an aggregate value of the school sites and buildings, of £7,892 4*s.* 9*d.* Tables, vol. iii. p. 734.

The inspections of our Assistant Commissioners were thus limited by us to the small number of National Schools having endowments distinct from the school sites and the Parliamentary grant; the result of their inspection of each of those schools is given in the Tables of Schools and Endowments.

Some of our Assistant Commissioners notice the National Schools in their general Reports.

Mr. Crawford says:—"The National Schools are, for the most part, efficient, owing to the constant inspection they undergo, the training and selection of the teachers, and the excellence of the books, supplied at cheap rates; many of them, however, are inefficient, from the impossibility of getting rid, without some hardship to the individual, of an old master, whose school had been lately placed in connexion with the Board. This cause of inefficiency will gradually diminish." Appendix, p. 4.

Mr. Abraham says:—"I have no suggestion to make in connexion with the National Schools. They are generally in a state of high efficiency; and any defects I have had occasion to notice in my reports are referable to a departure, in each instance, from the National system." Ibid. p. 6.

Dr. M'Blain states—"In several instances, I have found teachers not at all qualified for their positions or duties, and schoolhouses and rooms quite unsuited for the reception of scholars. Further, I would observe, that the rules of the National Board, requiring a certain average attendance to be attained at their schools as a condition of their being entitled to certain advantages, throw a temptation in the teacher's way of falsifying the averages, and consequently the statements of the average attendance at these schools must be received with some reserve. Ibid. p. 9.

"In one school a master admitted to me that he was in the habit of frequently recording a larger attendance of pupils than actually occurred on the given day; and, when I asked him why he concealed that fact from the Inspector, but admitted same to me, he accounted for the difference by the remark that he was speaking to me under the obligation of an oath.

"In general, the salaries paid to the teachers of National Schools are inadequate, and they are thus very seldom able to maintain the social position which so much contributes to the usefulness and influence of the schoolmaster's office.

"Almost all the National Endowed Schools in my district were under the management of the parish priest, and exclusively attended by Roman Catholic children. In many of these schools the duty of visiting and superintendence is very inadequately discharged by the Roman Catholic clergy, and but seldom do they undertake the business of examining the children in their secular attainments. They probably consider that the efficient inspection conducted by the paid officers of the National Board dispenses with the necessity of any active superintendence on the part of the clergy, at least so far as secular instruction is concerned.

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"Almost everywhere in my district the National Schools are regarded by the people and spoken of as 'the Catholic schools,' and this impression on the popular mind is strengthened by the unfortunate choice so generally made in the locality of the schools, viz., the chapel-yard, or its immediate vicinity.

"Slight as this circumstance may appear, I have no doubt that it has exercised a powerful deterrent effect on the attendance of Protestant children at those schools."

Appendix, p. 14.

Mr. Pennefather says—"With respect to the National Schools, the supply of school requisites is ample, and it is unnecessary to state that the books for secular education are remarkably good; the salaries for the masters and monitors appear adequate; a good deal is done in the way of inspection, but I think the inspection should be more frequent, in many cases it occurs but twice, in some but once a-year. In some instances, Saturday is the day on which religious instruction is given; I do not think the day well selected, as the attendance on that day is always thin; and in one or two instances, I found that religious instruction was only given occasionally on that day, the masters considering that this was a department rather for the priest of the parish, than for themselves."

We received no serious complaint as to the management of the National Board, nor did we receive any evidence of importance specially bearing on the National system of education.

The insecurity of many of the school buildings erected at the public expense, under the Commissioners of the Lord Lieutenant's School Building Fund, and other bodies having the distribution of public money, led us to inquire into the security of the sites and buildings of the vested National Schools. We accordingly addressed a communication to the Commissioners of National Education, inquiring whether the leases referred to in their return of vested National Schools had been executed under the provisions of the School Leasing Powers Act of 1810, or any other Leasing Powers Act, and whether the leases had the security of Parliamentary title, similar to that conferred by the Act of 1824. We received a reply, stating that the leases were not executed pursuant to that statute or any other Leasing Powers Act, and that they had not a Parliamentary title.

50th Geo. III. c. 33.

4th Geo. IV. c. 86, s. 10.

We are of opinion, that the principle of the School Leasing Powers Act of 1810, should be extended, so as to render all leases that have been or shall be made for National Schools valid, without the assent of the Bishop of the Diocese; and that the Parliamentary title conferred by the Act of 1824, should be extended to all past and all future leases for National Schools.

We are of opinion that all the leases, and all the endowments, of National Schools, should be registered by the proposed Registrar of School Endowments.

CHURCH EDUCATION SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS.

The Church Education Society for Ireland, was established in 1839. The objects of the society are, "to assist schools at present existing in the country, and to "establish new schools, on an improved system, for the purpose of affording to the "children of the Church, instruction in the Holy Scriptures, and in the catechism, "and other formularies of the Church, under the direction of the Bishops and "parochial clergy, and under the tuition of teachers who are members of the "United Church of England and Ireland."

The society supplies its schools with copies of the Holy Scriptures, in the authorized version, or integral portions thereof, the use of which they require in the daily instruction of every pupil who is capable of reading, and no other version of the Holy Scriptures is allowed to be used in the society's schools.

The schools of the society are open to all children whatsoever belonging to the parish in which the school is situated, and having the parochial minister's approbation for attending it; and no child is excluded on account of the inability of its parents to pay for its instruction.

The society connects itself closely with all the diocesan education societies existing in the country, it endeavours to promote the formation of others where none have as yet been established, and it keeps up an intercourse with them all. It has established, and maintains, a model and training school for the education of teachers; supplies books and other school requisites for the use of schools established by it; and assists in furnishing and repairing schoolhouses. It

promotes the formation and furthers the operation of a system of inspection of the schools assisted or established by it.

CHURCH EDUCATION SOCIETY SCHOOLS.

The main object of the society is the raising of annual funds for the maintenance of schools, and not their permanent endowment.

We addressed to the society the same circular that we did to other societies in any way connected with schools, inquiring whether there were any endowed schools in connexion with the society, or whether there were any endowed schools formerly in connexion with the society, and now disconnected from it; also the names and addresses of the masters and trustees, and whether the records of the society, or any other sources of information within its reach, indicated the existence of any endowments or funds for the establishment of schools not in operation. To this circular we received no reply. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 397.

A number of schools connected with the Church Education Society came under our notice, in consequence of its having granted annual assistance to schools, the sites of which were secured for educational purposes. Few, if any, of these schools have any other endowment than the school sites, with the buildings erected thereon. No complaint was made to us in our public courts as to the Society's management of any endowed school in connexion with it.

These schools were inspected by our Assistant Commissioners, and the result in each case is given in the Tables of Schools and Endowments.

Our Assistant Commissioners in their general Reports notice the Church Education Society schools in connexion with the parochial schools, the class to which they chiefly belong. Thus Mr. Crawford says:—

"The parochial schools are, as a class, not good. The principal causes are the want of means to pay a sufficient salary to the master—of a sufficiently frequent inspection—and from the necessity, from the first cause, of combining the office of schoolmaster with that of parish clerk. Instances came under my notice in which the inefficiency of the master was admitted; but being also parish clerk, which is a freehold office, the dismissal of the schoolmaster would have deprived the school of its principal source of support." Appendix, p. 4.

And Mr. Abraham, speaking of the parochial or Church Education Society's schools, states that they are miserably inefficient, which he ascribes, amongst other causes, to the incompetency of the teachers, the defects of the system, and the inferiority of the school books. Ibid. p. 7.

He also says:—

"The male teachers are almost invariably the parish clerks of their respective districts, and the female teachers their wives. They have themselves, for the greater part, been educated in schools of the same description, and, except in rare instances, are not likely to communicate more instruction than they themselves received at school. They are usually very illiterate. The salary at the disposal of the clergy objecting to the National system is too small to procure the services of a qualified teacher; and as any thing the schoolmaster might receive as teacher merely, would be insufficient for his support, the clergyman is obliged to appoint the same man parish clerk and schoolmaster."

He reports that—

"The scale of proficiency, or school course, even supposing it accurately followed (which it never is), drops very far behind the National school course, the instruction given to each class in the parish schools being much inferior to that in the corresponding class of a National school. Ibid.

"Nothing can be more trumpery than the inspection of these schools. The day of inspection is always known for a considerable time beforehand, and express notice given to master and pupils. The pupils are promoted by the inspector to higher classes in the scale of proficiency, a year, or even two years, before their proficiency would warrant it."

"The school-books are of an inferior description, being, in fact, the old stock of the Kildare-place Society, every way out of date, and behind the time."

"I have found the local clergy to attach far less importance to the secular instruction given in their schools than it would seem to claim, viewed even as nothing more than a medium of religious teaching."

Dr. M'Blain, speaking of parish schools, the majority of them being in connexion with the Church Education Society, says:—

"To secure the services of a good teacher a suitable salary must be provided: in many parishes this has not been done, and the result has been that the school is placed in the hands of an incompetent or inferior master. This evil will Ibid. p. 8.

CHURCH EDUCATION SOCIETY SCHOOLS.

continue until the teacher is adequately remunerated, as it is quite idle to expect that the miserable stipend, from which many unfortunate schoolmasters throughout the country now draw their scanty subsistence, will ever attract any other than a very inferior class of teachers.

"Here, therefore, the desideratum is money.

"The next important circumstance which determines the efficiency of these schools, is referable to the superintendence of the local clergy. Generally speaking, I think it will be found to be true that the usefulness of a parochial school (*cæteris paribus*) varies in proportion to the interest shown by the local clergy in its welfare. It is impossible to overrate the moral influence, not merely over the pupils, but as regards the teachers themselves, which is exercised by the conscientious clergyman, whose frequent presence in the schoolroom attests his sense of the vitally important work in which they are engaged. It has been truly said that a school to be good must have a friend—the best, and in many cases the only friend of the parochial school is the parochial minister.

"He best discharges his duty whose examinations embrace the secular as well as the religious instruction of the pupils.

"I attach the more value to the labours of the clergyman in reference to this class of schools. inasmuch as they are not subjected otherwise to any adequate supervision.

"The majority of them are, no doubt, in connexion with the Church Education Society, and subject to the annual inspection of their officers; but the hurried yearly visits paid to the schools by these gentlemen, however conscientious or indefatigable in the performance of their duties they may be, cannot, I fear, be regarded as productive of any very beneficial results.

"Many of the parochial schools are very badly supplied with school furniture, books, and other school requisites; and of course, wherever this is the case, the efficiency of the school will be more or less affected."

Appendix, p. 13.

Mr. Pennefather. speaking of parochial schools in connexion with the Church Education Society, says:—

"With respect to the parochial schools in connexion with the Church Education Society, I think their efficiency is impaired by want of adequate means. The funds at the disposal of the society appear insufficient for the maintenance of a class of competent professional inspectors, for the provision of adequate salaries for masters and monitors, and for affording a sufficient supply of school requisites. The salaries are rarely of an amount to compensate the services of well qualified teachers. It is true that the salaries are often augmented, by the same man filling the office of schoolmaster and parish clerk, and though the duties are consistent, the latter is a freehold office, from which the clerk cannot be removed except for misconduct, with the consent of the bishop (see 3 and 4 Wm. IV. c. 37, s. 63), and one can conceive a variety of instances in which it might be desirable to discharge him from his mastership, which would afford no ground for removing him from his clerkship. It will also be found in some few instances, that either to make up a salary, or in lieu of a salary, land has been given to the master. The occupation of land, especially if a man's livelihood is in a great measure derived from it, necessarily engages a larger portion of his attention than is consistent with the proper discharge of his duties as schoolmaster; it is no answer to say that there is a vacation at harvest time, for there is seed time as well, and markets to be attended. The clerical inspection to which these schools are subject is of great advantage; besides the benefit to the schools themselves, I think it tends to increase the interest in the minds of the clergy in education generally, and the inspection of other schools may supply useful suggestions for the management of schools in their own parishes. This inspection, which I found was frequently termed diocesan, is, however, but the voluntary act of the clergy, and their other avocations prevent as frequent inspection as the case requires, and it is not unattended with expense. The clerical inspection may, perhaps, have a disadvantage in this, that where several clergymen take the duty in turn, some may entertain different views respecting the merits of different parts of education, and thus prevent a uniformity of action, which is not only good in itself, but makes the comparative state of different schools more apparent. To the frequent visits of the clergy to their own parochial schools, too much importance cannot be attached, and in some instances, I think a more active interest in the secular education of the children would be desirable."

CHURCH EDUCATION SOCIETY SCHOOLS.

As the Church Education Society is a voluntary society, not necessarily connected with permanent endowments, we did not examine its officers as to the results thus indicated, nor do we feel called upon to make any recommendation with regard to the society.

Mr. Stephens, one of our body, submitted to us a proposal for the settlement of the question of primary education in Ireland, which involved a modification of the rules of the National Board, and was intended to embrace all the non-endowed as well as the endowed schools under the Church Education Society, and all other schools of the same class. After fully considering this plan, the remaining members of our body rejected it, and resolved not to make the measures recommended by us for the improvement of endowed schools contingent on any change in the principles of the National Board.

We were indisposed to recommend any interference in the management of Church schools having endowments too small to insure their independent existence.

The management of Church schools with sufficiently large endowments, was considered by us, and a majority of our body were disposed to recommend the creation of a Board of Superintendence for such schools, with a paid Commissioner appointed by the Government, with the approval of the Lord Primate, and other Commissioners selected from the governing bodies of the Church school trusts; but we found that the creation of a Board for Church schools would not be acceptable to the heads of the United Church; and other difficulties having presented themselves to some of us, the plan of creating this Board did not finally meet with the approbation of a majority of our body.

CLASSICAL SCHOOLS OF PRIVATE FOUNDATION.

Of these schools we shall notice the Roman Catholic Diocesan Seminaries: those which we visited, being at Armagh, Belfast, and Cavan, and the Belfast Intermediate Schools.

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN SEMINARIES.

These institutions have been gradually established by the exertions of the Roman Catholic bishops, and exist in nearly every diocese in Ireland. The object of them is to train up pupils for the Roman Catholic priesthood; but with that course of education is combined one suited to fit the pupils for secular pursuits. These seminaries, in consequence of the smallness of the funds by which they are supported, supply, to a very inadequate extent, the means of education to the middle classes of Roman Catholics.

1°. *Armagh, County of Armagh.*

The Armagh Diocesan Seminary was built in 1838, by Archbishop Crolly, and the Roman Catholic clergy of the diocese of Armagh. The Archbishop, by his will, in 1849, devised the buildings and site to trustees for the support of the school, in order to afford moral and religious education to the candidates for the priesthood in the diocese of Armagh. He also devised a farm which he held from year to year for the benefit of the seminary. The site of the seminary, and the five acres of land adjoining it, are held under a fee-farm grant. The repairs of the schoolhouse are defrayed out of the receipts from the pupils.

Our Assistant Commissioner, when he inspected the school, found forty-eight pupils in the house, of whom thirty-six were boarders and twelve day pupils. The number on the roll was fifty-two. There are no free pupils, and the annual charges are £20 for boarders, and £4 for day pupils. Besides apartments, the master gets £60 a-year, and the assistant a like sum. The state of instruction was satisfactory; but cleanliness was not sufficiently attended to in this establishment.

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN SEMINARIES.

2°. *Belfast, County of Antrim.*

The Belfast Diocesan Seminary has been in existence since 1833, and comprises both a classical and English school. In addition to the site of the school-house, which is held under a lease for lives renewable for ever, it does not appear that there is any endowment in operation; for, although Mr. John Garr, by his will, in 1838, left money towards the support of the Belfast Diocesan Seminary, the bequest has not been rendered available, the validity of the will not having been established. The school was built with funds procured by the late Archbishop Crolly, and is now kept in repair out of pupils' fees, and the private resources of Bishop Denvir.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 444.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that there were eight boarders and four day pupils in attendance at the classical school; and at the English school twenty boarders and thirty-five day pupils. No roll of attendance is kept, but some boarders not included in the preceding numbers were absent when the Assistant Commissioner inspected. Although the main object of the seminary is to educate pupils for the priesthood, persons of every religious persuasion are admitted to the school; and at present there are two Unitarians amongst the boarders, and one of the day pupils belongs to the United Church. The master of the classical school, who is a clergyman, and the master of the English school, are provided with board and lodging, and paid a salary of £30 each by the bishop. The pupils' fees go to the bishop to meet the expenses of the seminary.

The number of diocesan seminaries that came under our notice was not sufficient to warrant us in pronouncing any general opinion as to the efficiency of this class of schools, especially as those which we examined were not in the parts of Ireland where the Roman Catholic population is most numerous, and did not comprise the seminaries of Athlone, Carlow, Kilkenny, and Waterford, which are the chief of these institutions.

In judging of the state of education in them, the smallness of the endowments ought to be taken into consideration. These seem to be in no case more than sufficient to provide buildings, and in one case, even the repairs are defrayed out of the pupils' fees.

3°. *Cavan, County of Cavan.*

The Cavan Diocesan Seminary has been in operation since 1839, and was endowed by Mr. Edward Magovern, the Rev. Mr. O'Reilly, and Mr. John Brady. Bishop Browne, in 1838, for the sum of £3,500, procured an assignment of a lease for lives renewable for ever of the land on which the school is built; and he has since made a declaration of trust in favour of the seminary. Mr. Magovern devised to this endowment a fee-simple estate, the net rental of which was, from 1838 to 1851, about £10 a-year, but is at present worth considerably more. The Very Rev. Mr. O'Reilly bequeathed £400 to found a scholarship in the seminary for his relations, a preference to be given to those of his name, and Mr. Brady left £300 to trustees for the use of the academy. These, and other large sums, contributed in the neighbourhood, including Bishop Browne's subscription of £381, have been principally devoted to the building of the seminary. As at present conducted, the seminary is both a boarding and day school. The education given to the generality of pupils includes classics; in some few instances, it is commercial only. Of the pupils, many are prepared for Maynooth, and some have entered the Queen's Colleges.

Ev. 7786.

At our public court at Cavan, we inquired into the state of this school.

Ev. 7809.

It was inspected by our Assistant Commissioner who reports that the attendance was numerous: forty-six were present out of forty-nine on the roll, of whom twenty-one were boarders and twenty-eight day pupils. The charges are £1 1*s.* entrance-fee, and £1 1*s.* a quarter for day pupils; for boarders, £1 1*s.* entrance-fee, and £6 a quarter.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 492.

The course of instruction is comprehensive, and the answering in several of the subjects was satisfactory.

There is one head master and two assistants, of whom the former has £50 salary, deducted from the general receipts of the school; and the two latter, £30 and £50 respectively. The master and one of the assistants are also boarded —the former having also the profits of land, worth £40 a-year.

The buildings are kept in repair by means of private subscriptions—the funds of the school, after other outgoings, not being sufficient for this purpose.

We found the literary instruction and general state of the boys' school unsatisfactory; but the time of the pupils is much occupied in field labour. The master seemed very unfit for his position. A new master has, since our visit, and the report of the Assistant Commissioner, been appointed. SCHOOLS OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

The girls' school, on the contrary, is well managed. They are all instructed in the different branches of an English education; they are likewise taught needlework, and perform all the household work of the establishment.

The school was inspected by our Assistant Commissioner, who returns the attendance as being twenty-nine boys, twenty of whom are free; and twenty-three girls, of whom sixteen are free. All are boarders, and are brought up as members of the Society of Friends. The master receives a salary of £60 from the committee; the mistress £25; and each is allowed board and lodging. The Assistant Commissioner reports favourably of the state of instruction in the boys' school. Tables, vol. iii. p. 437.

2°. *Clonmel Boarding School for Girls, County of Tipperary.*

In 1796, Mr. Robert Grubb, a member of the Society of Friends, devised for the support of a boarding school, for girls of his own religious persuasion, the site on which the school had been previously built, and the yearly rents and profits of certain premises, on which flour mills had been erected. The situation of the school not being eligible, the house and yard adjoining it were let in 1847, and the accumulated rent thereof, as well as the rent of the mill premises, was applied to building a new schoolhouse, on a site leased for ever. In 1850, an excellent schoolhouse was built at a cost of upwards of £2,000; part of the sum was procured as just stated, and the rest raised by mortgaging the school property, and by private subscriptions. Tables, vol. iii. p. 383.

The school was inspected by our Assistant Commissioner, whose report is very favourable. The pupils were well instructed in an extensive course of education, and also in such female accomplishments as are consistent with the rules of the Society of Friends. Nothing could exceed the cleanliness with which every thing was kept, and, on the whole, the state of the institution reflected much credit on its conductors. The attendance, however, is small, the number of pupils being but thirteen. This is not a free school, being exclusively intended for the wealthier classes. Ibid.

The annual revenue of the school estate is nearly £100, the principal part of which is absorbed by charges on the property. The residue, whatever it may be, is paid to the schoolmistress, who is also entitled to the pupils' fees, instead of receiving a fixed salary as in the other schools of the Society of Friends.

3°. *Lisburn, Ulster Provincial School, County of Antrim.*

This school was endowed in 1764 by John Hancock, a member of the Society of Friends, who bequeathed £1,000, to be laid out on lands, the rents of which were to be devoted to the support of a school, for persons of his own persuasion. The trustees purchased lands accordingly, the net rental of which is upwards of £60 a-year. They also took a lease for ever from the Earl of Hertford of twenty acres of land, and built a schoolhouse at a cost of £1,300, raised by subscriptions among the Society of Friends. Tables, vol. iii. p. 434.

The school was opened in 1774. The first master was John Gough, the author of the well-known treatise on Arithmetic. Besides the original endowment, there is attached to this school an annual revenue exceeding £200, which is composed of the interest of upwards of £5,000, and the produce of legacies and other donations invested in the funds, private securities, and land. Our Assistant Commissioner reports that this institution, which is a boarding school for less wealthy members of the Society of Friends, is attended by twelve boys and thirteen girls. None of them are entirely free; but those who are in less affluent circumstances pay only £5 a-year; and many of them are apprenticed from funds attached to the school when their education is completed; while others, according to their means, pay sums which vary in amount, and in one case reached £26 19*s.* 1*d.* The teachers are paid fixed salaries by the committee of management, and are also entitled to their board and lodging. They have no interest in the pupils' fees. This establishment is very neatly kept, and the children appear well dressed and comfortable. They answered satisfactorily in the elementary branches of English education. None of the pupils learn book-keeping, which seems a great omission in a school of this kind. There is no industrial training for any of the pupils, except needlework for the girls. Ibid. p. 450.

BELFAST INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS.

the collegiate department of the Institution ceased to exist, the Parliamentary grant for it having been withdrawn.

The school department and general management of the Institution suffered from this controversy, and the schools did not begin to revive until the establishment of the Queen's College, from which time the number of pupils increased, and the schools became more efficient. There are six masters, all independent of each other, but under the government of a board of managers and visitors.

Ev. 10416. For the establishment of the Institution the large sum of £25,000 was raised by voluntary subscription, chiefly in Ulster, the whole of which was expended on buildings, and school and collegiate requisites, and nothing left for repairs and

Ev. 10420. other out-goings. The result, as appears from the "Statement" brought under our notice at Belfast by the secretary of the board of managers, is, that the Institution is now much crippled for want of funds, and its efficiency impaired.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that, as regards attendance and instruction, the Institution exhibits signs of improvement. The number on the roll at the classical school, at the time of his visit, was 32, but no return is made as to any previous average. In the other five schools the attendance was above average. In the mathematical school it was 145; in the English, 134; in the writing school, 89; in the French, 52; and in the drawing school, 19. The answering

Tables, vol. iii. p. 448. of the pupils in classics, English, and mathematics, was good; they wrote well; and in French and drawing several pupils exhibited considerable proficiency. We were particularly pleased with the course of instruction and answering in the English school.

From the position of the buildings, and the large play-ground attached to it, the Royal Academical Institution is well calculated to form the basis of an extensive establishment for intermediate education.

Vide p. 223 *infra*. We elsewhere recommend that the existing want of education of this kind should be supplied by the union of local funds under the management of local trustees, with grants of public money.

We are of opinion that the munificent sum raised by local exertion, and expended in founding the Institution, ought to be considered as a local contribution, giving the Institution a claim to a liberal share of any public grant for promoting intermediate education.

SCHOOLS OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

The schools of the Society of Friends are all under the care of the Quarterly Meetings of the Society which are held for religious purposes, in the districts in which the schools are situate. They are also governed by committees, which are confined to members of the Society of Friends. The masters belong to that body, and the system of religious instruction is that adopted by the Society.

One of the institutions is intended for the benefit of distressed children, being descendants of persons who had been Friends, but had left the Society. It is kept entirely distinct from those intended for the education of the children of Friends in full membership. But all the pupils are brought up in the religious principles of the Society, and upon a plan similar to that pursued in the other institutions.

1°. *Brookfield School, Magheramesk, County of Antrim.*

The object of the Brookfield institution is to furnish a good English education to children whose ancestors, other than parents, were members of the Society of Friends. The school was opened in 1836, the site of the house having been purchased, and buildings improved or erected out of various bequests and donations made for that purpose. Of these sums, about £1,400 now remains; the interest of which, together with subscriptions, and the fees of the few pupils who pay, constitutes the revenues out of which the school is at present supported. A committee of the Society of Friends has the management of this school, and regulates the admission of free pupils, and the course of instruction. Such of the children as are orphans are usually provided with employment when they leave the school. It is a boarding school for boys as well as for girls.

building the Roman Catholic cathedral at Tuam, but the interest is still paid. The school is at present kept by monks of the Order of St. Francis, and the class-books used are chiefly those of the Christian Brothers.

English Schools Visited or Noticed in Evidence.

We inquired as to this school at our public court at Galway, and examined the Rev. Mr. Keaveney, the parish priest of Annadown, who gave us particulars as to the management of the endowment. It seems the interest of the bequest had been formerly divided with a school at Woodpark, but the latter has been discontinued for a number of years.

Ev. 5413, 5431.

Ev. 5433.

Ballintemple and Fethard Schools, endowed by Rev. Morgan Hickey, County of Tipperary.

The loss of these endowments was inquired into at our Public Court at Clonmel. The Rev. Morgan Hickey, by his will, in 1746, after making a bequest for a Protestant Charter School, directed that £200 should be put out at interest for the use of a schoolmaster to teach English, reading, writing, and casting accounts, in the town of Fethard for ever; and £100 for a like purpose in the parish of Ballintemple. The money was left in the hands of Mr. Hickey's executor, the Rev. Mr. Armstrong, and the interest paid by him and by his representatives until 1816.

Ev. 658.

Ev. 661.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 377.

Mr. Chamberlain Walker, who was then just appointed Secretary to the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, obtained this fund from the trustees, by demanding it in the name of the Commissioners, under the authority of the Act of Parliament; and having obtained the money, he applied it to his own purposes, and paid the dividends on it to the school, as if by order of the Board. He continued this fraudulent practice, without detection, during the entire time he was Secretary to the Board; and it was not discovered until after his death, in 1827. An inquiry was then instituted by the Commissioners, and the facts ascertained; but as Mr. Walker died insolvent, and does not seem to have given any security, the loss accruing by the fraud of a public officer appointed by the Commissioners was allowed to fall on this charity.

Ev. 662.

Minute Book of Commissioners of Education.

The Commissioners showed culpable negligence in never auditing Mr. Walker's or their own accounts during the thirteen years he was in office, though he was known to have been in difficulties long before his death.

Ballynure, Doone, Dunohill, Templeneiry, and Toem Schools, endowed by the Rev. Mr. Doherty, County of Tipperary.

The Rev. John Doherty, by his will, in 1714, left £100, at 8 per cent., £3 of which was to be paid to some person of the Protestant religion—the parish clerk, if possible—to teach the children of the poor in the parish of Doone the English tongue and Church catechism; £2 for a like purpose, in the parish of Templeneiry; and £1 10*s.* each, on the same terms, for the parishes of Donaghill and Ballinure. In the Appendix to the Report of the Commissioners of 1791 this endowment is noticed as amounting to £200, and distributable among three parishes. And in the Thirteenth Report of the Commissioners of 1807–12, it is stated that the bequest then amounted to £300, and was in the hands of the representatives of Archbishop Cox, to whom it had been originally intrusted. The Cox family continued to pay sums of money, apparently on account of this bequest, until 1836, in which year £3 13*s.* 10*d.*, or £4 Irish, was paid by Mr. Michael Cox, of Castletown, to the schoolmaster of Templeneiry. Payments were also made, through the Rev. Mr. Cox, rector of Cahirconlish, of a similar amount, to the schoolmasters of the parishes of Toem, Doone, and Donohill. In making these payments, he was, however, supposed to be acting only as agent of the then owner of the Castletown estate, Mr. M. Cox, whose heiress is Mrs. Villiers Stewart. It is not unlikely that the original bequest of £100 increased, by accumulation, to the sum of £200, mentioned in 1791, and of £300, mentioned in 1812, on which larger sum interest would seem to have been paid until 1836. The payment, after that time, was resisted, by the agent of the Cox family, who required the persons interested in the endowment to prove their title.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 387.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 374.

Ev. 654.

Ev. 655.

This case illustrates the necessity of some inexpensive process, such as that in the assistant barrister's court, to try the validity of small endowments if disputed. The costs of proceedings in Chancery in such cases amounts to a denial of justice.

English Schools Visited or Noticed in Evidence.

Camus School, Strabane, County of Tyrone.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 670.
Doc., Ev., vol. ii. p. 376.

In 1666, James Hamilton, Esq., is said to have granted a rent-charge of £32 for the support of a school, but the particulars of the endowment are not ascertained. The endowment is noticed in the report of 1791 as being attached to a school at Camus, now Strabane; and it is stated that twelve boys were clothed and educated there, and put to trades. The agent of the Marquess of Abercorn, the present representative of Mr. Hamilton, states that he knows nothing of the instrument creating the endowment, or of the particular school designed to be supported.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 670.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that the present school was built by subscription in 1838; but, about ten years before, a different school had been supported at Strabane, which was subsequently converted into a shop, and the payment of the rent-charge discontinued. The original Board of Charitable Donations and Bequests then took up the matter, and the payments recommenced, and were made to the master of the new school, likewise in the town of Strabane. At present this school is attended by forty-four pupils; but of these only four are educated free, and none are apprenticed out of the funds of this endowment. The prevailing tradition, as to the objects of the foundation, is that expressed in the notice of the endowment in the Report of 1791, according to which the number of pupils on the foundation should be twelve, not four, and these to be clothed and apprenticed, as well as educated. The endowment, however, is too insignificant in amount to admit of the intentions of the founder being fully carried into effect. The school is inspected by the Church Education Society. The state of instruction is not satisfactory, so far as could be judged from the answering of the pupils present, who were but twenty-six in number, though forty-four were returned on the roll.

Cashel National Schools, County of Tipperary.

These schools are very largely endowed out of the property of the Borough of Cashel. That portion out of which the endowment arises had been appropriated by some members of the old Corporation; but after the establishment of the reformed Corporation in 1840, proceedings for its recovery were instituted, and prosecuted with success. A decree was pronounced in 1843, and under it a scheme was, in 1844, proposed for the management of the property so recovered, amounting at that time to £600 a-year. Of that sum £200 a-year was appropriated for the support of schools—£180 for two schools, one for boys, and the other for girls, to be placed under the control of the National Board; and £20 a-year for schools under the control of Protestant ministers. Shortly after the scheme was approved of, and these endowments came into operation, £100 was allotted for the boys' school, and £80 for the girls'. The funds are employed in payments of the teachers' salaries, repairs of the extensive school-buildings, and providing clothing for the more destitute of the pupils. The girls' school is under the management of the nuns of the Presentation Convent; but it, as well as the boys' school, is inspected and controlled by the National Board of Education.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 382.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports favourably of these institutions, as regards the number of pupils, the state of instruction, and the condition of the school buildings. Of the pupils, all of whom are free, and belong to the Roman Catholic religion, 121 were present at the time of inspection, in the boys' school, out of 246 on the roll; in the girls' school the numbers present were 145, and those on the roll 295. There are no restrictions on the admission of pupils, all who present themselves receiving education free of charge.

Vide p. 95, *supra*.
Tables, vol. iii. p. 364.

The Protestant Schools to which the £20 a-year is applied are those of the Incorporated Society in Cashel, and are noticed in our Report on the Incorporated Society, and in the Tables of Schools and Endowments.

Clongesh Boys' School, County of Longford.

Clongesh Girls' School, County of Longford.

Clongesh school was endowed by Charlotte Amelia Mitchell with £1,000, the interest of which she directed should be expended, at the discretion of the trustees, on books, clothes, and other requisites, for the children of the poor. A further endowment was made by the Rev. James Mitchell, who granted an annuity of £55 7*s.* 8*d.*, and a house with four acres of land.

Our Assistant Commissioner found the school in a very unsatisfactory state. As all the pupils are free, and there is no efficient inspection, the teachers are not stimulated to do their duty, either by the hope of gaining fees for instruction, or by the fear of losing their situations. The consequence is, that the pupils, both boys and girls, are very backward in their education. There were twenty boys present at the time of inspection, out of thirty-three on the roll; and twenty-one girls out of thirty-seven. All belong to the United Church, except six of the boys, who are Roman Catholics. The master's salary is £46, and that of the mistress, £20; they have besides a house worth, annually, £20.

English Schools Visited or Noticed in Evidence.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 170.

Being a non-exclusive school, it is one of those that we recommend to be under the care of the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

Cork, St. Anne's Shandon Green Coat Hospital, County of Cork.

In 1717, by the Act of 4 George I., chap. 14, the Green Coat Hospital, in Cork, was incorporated. The Act recites that several well-disposed persons had erected two schoolhouses, in which 100 boys and girls, of the Protestant religion, were educated, and also an alms-house for the reception of eighteen decayed housekeepers; and then provides that these premises be vested in certain persons therein specified, and their successors for ever; and managed according to the intentions of those who founded the charity. Of the various endowments made at different times the charity now enjoys £132 19*s.* 6*d.* a-year, net income, derived from land, rent-charges, &c.

Ev. 1695.

At our Public Court, at Cork, we received evidence as to the state of this endowment, and examined the master of the school, the secretary of the trustees, and the treasurer. It is not surprising that this endowment is in an unsatisfactory condition, since the parties who are intrusted with its management appear to be very imperfectly acquainted with the particulars of the property which ought to constitute the endowment. There had been some money in the Funds to the credit of this institution, but it has lately been sold out, and the proceeds expended.

Ev. 1694. Ev. 2020. Ev. 1966.

Our Assistant Commissioner found the boys' school in a very unsatisfactory state; but the girls were well instructed in a course which, however, was very elementary. Besides some few other emoluments, the master has a salary of £31 10*s.*, and the mistress, £21. There are twenty-six pupils in the boys' school, and twenty in the girls' school—all of whom are day pupils, and all free.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 315.

Cork, Moses Deane's Endowments, County of Cork.

In 1726, Moses Deane, Esq., left some leasehold property, in the city of Cork, to trustees, who were directed to suffer the rents to accumulate, until there was enough to give £1,200 for the support of a charity-school, in the parish of St. Peter, where twenty poor boys, and as many girls, might be educated and clothed; and like sums, for like purposes, to the parishes of St. Nicholas, St. Mary's Shandon, and Christ Church. This charity was afterwards augmented from other sources; but much of the property appears to have been since lost. A considerable portion of the rents directed to be accumulated, were misapplied, and the leases of the premises, out of which they issued, have expired. Previous to their expiration, however, two sums of £1,200 had been paid to the use of the parishes of St. Peter and St. Nicholas, and £800 to that of St. Mary's Shandon; but it does not appear that any thing was allocated to Christ's Church.

1°. *Cove-street, St. Nicholas' Parochial School.*

St. Nicholas' School was one of the two schools on the foundation of Moses Deane, noticed as being in operation in the Report of the Commissioners of 1791; but it had ceased to be so before the Report of the Commissioners of 1807–12. They notice only one school on this foundation, that of St. Peter. It appears that some years before the Commissioners of 1807–12 reported, the sum of £1,200, intended for the parish of St. Nicholas, had been paid over to the rector. It remained in his hands for a long time, until at length the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests interfered, and, as stated in their return in 1824, had the money transferred to them, and invested in the

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 375.

Ev. 2034.

English Schools Visited or Noticed in Evidence.

Ev. 2038, 2082.

Funds, when, having accumulated for a number of years, it produced £6,109 15*s.* Afterwards a schoolhouse was built, at a cost of £370; and the school is noticed in several reports as being numerously attended. At our public Court at Cork we inquired into it, and examined the rector of the parish, one of the trustees of the charity, and the schoolmaster.

The school was inspected by our Assistant Commissioner, who reports that in the boys' school the state of instruction, though satisfactory as far as it went, was very elementary; he notices the girls' school more favourably. In the boys' school the number on the roll is fifty-five; in the girls', seventy-four. The endowment at present consists of £166 16*s.* a-year, the interest of £5,559 17*s.* 8*d.*, besides the site and school buildings; and, out of this, the master has a salary of £30, the mistress a like sum, and the assistant, £5.

2°. *Newsom's-quay, St. Mary's Shandon Parochial School.*

Ev. 2259.

This is the last school brought into operation of those on Moses Deane's foundation. It was established in 1834, after the funds appropriated to the parish of St. Mary's were recovered by the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests. There was expended on the schoolhouse £743, of which £200 was part of a bequest made to this charity by Thomas Casey, Esq., who died in 1833. This school is the least richly endowed of the three in operation on the foundation of Moses Deane. It has personal property to the amount of £2,101 2*s.*, the interest on which is £63 0*s.* 8*d.*

Tables, vol. iii. p. 315.

Our Assistant Commissioner found on the roll, in the boys' school, thirty-eight, and in the girls' school thirty-five. The master's salary is £35, and that of the mistress, £15. This is the only one of the schools, on the same foundation, which is not noticed favourably. The state of education among the boys appears decidedly backward; and that among the girls, though not equally so, cannot be considered as satisfactory.

3°. *Peter's-lane, St. Peter's School.*

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 375.

St. Peter's School appears to have been the longest in operation of any of those on Moses Deane's foundation. It is noticed in the Report of 1791; and it is the only one which appears to have been in existence when the Commissioners of 1807–12 conducted their inquiries. More than the specified number of children were then clothed and educated in the school; but it was at that time assisted by an annual grant of £72 from the Corporation. This charity was also entitled to about £56 a-year, portion of a rent-charge devised by Sir Thomas Deane in 1734, but which had not been paid for many years. The present revenue of the school consists of the above rent-charge, and the interest of £1,107 13*s.* 10*d.*, lent to the Corporation, and of £252 18*s.* 4*d.*, Government Stock, producing together £63 12*s.* 4*d.* a-year. We examined the clergyman who visits this school, as also the treasurer and the master. The Rev. Mr. Walker stated, in evidence before us, that he visited the school every day. And the efficiency of the school gave satisfactory testimony of the good effects of this constant supervision.

Ev. 2165–6.

Ev. 2169.

The school was inspected by our Assistant Commissioner, who notices it favourably. The number of boys on the roll is sixty, and of girls forty-one, and they appeared to be generally well instructed. The master's salary is £36, and that of the mistress, £20; and they have in addition some other emoluments.

Cork, Stephen's-street Blue-Coat Hospital, County of Cork.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 375.

Ev. 1367.

The facts with regard to this charity were brought under our notice at our public Courts held at Cork. It appears that the charity was the subject of investigation by the Commissioners of 1791, and also by the Commissioners of 1807–12; but we are indebted to the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for some information as to its early history—information which seems entirely to have escaped the inquiries of preceding Commissions. Indeed, the Commissioners of 1791 and 1807–12 do not appear even to have seen any of the documents relating to this endowment, for they refer to the Bishop of Killaloe as being the founder, while, in fact, the person who professed to create the endowment which he subsequently allowed the Corporation of Cork to deal with in a manner so disadvantageous to the interests of the charity, was a layman,

the Honorable William Worth. This gentleman, in the year 1707, allowed leases in perpetuity to be made, the consequence of which has been that the estates of the endowment, now said to be worth above £7,000 yearly, yield to the charity an annual revenue of only £335 5*s.* 2*d.*

We called the attention of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests to this extraordinary misapplication; and the following is taken from the communication received in reply, prepared by Mr. Macdonnell, one of the Secretaries of the Board:— Ev. 1510.

"The origin of the endowment," he states, "is lost in antiquity, but it appears that, as far back as any records can be traced, the Corporation of Cork held the lands of Cahirgall and both Ballymoughs, in the north suburbs of Cork, and also the Spittal lands in the south, for the maintenance of a house of entertainment for poor Lepers and Lazars, and that a Prior or Governor was appointed to manage said lands and Hospital. Thus, in the Records of the Bermingham Tower, we have found a judgment in favour of said Hospital, dated Easter Term, 24 Edw. I. A.D. 1297. In the lapse of time there ceased to be objects strictly falling within the supposed original objects of the foundation, and the Corporation accordingly applied the fund to the maintenance and education of poor children of Cork.

"In 1656 the old Irish Corporation was succeeded by an English body, who appear to have remained in ignorance of this property and of its trust, till Dr. Edward Worth (Bishop of Killaloe) drew their attention to the matter. By his advice James Cox (brother-in-law to the Bishop) was appointed Prior and Manager. Upon his death William Worth (then Recorder of Cork, and son of the said Bishop) succeeded to the office, and so got into possession of the rents of the lands. He was afterwards made a Baron of the Exchequer, and possessed sufficient influence to obtain a grant of the lands to himself and his heirs, by patent from the Crown, dated July 21st, 1685.

"This grant appears, from a variety of entries in the books of the Corporation, to have been disputed by them; and a bill was filed in Chancery on the 28th February, 1695, against Baron Worth.

"The negotiations consequent on this resulted in the deed of September 2, 1699. That deed professes to be for the purpose of *founding* an hospital, and its endowment is ascribed to the benevolence of Baron Worth. It need hardly be observed, therefore, that without a knowledge of the facts above sketched, its recitals are calculated to mislead."

After noticing that the lands were leased, between the years 1708 and 1760, under the power of leasing in perpetuity, purporting to be granted in 1707, with a loss to the endowment such as has before been adverted to, Mr. Macdonnell states, "that as soon as the former Board of Charitable Donations and Bequests, created in 1800, was in possession of the facts, a case was prepared and laid, by its direction, in the year 1813, before the then Attorney-General, Mr. Saurin, with copies of all material documents, for his perusal. His opinion was given on the 13th April, 1813, and is both full and distinct. It was considered by the Board, and on the 28th of May following the Board decided formally that it would not be justified in taking proceedings on behalf of the charity."

"It also appears that the title, under the fee-farm grants, was impeached in a Chancery cause of *Perrier* v. *Hopper*, and a reference made to the Master, whose Report, dated 17th of November, 1814, was in favour of the title. Exceptions were taken to the Report on the 13th of November, 1814, and finally, the Chancellor refused to force the title on a reluctant purchaser. The exceptions, however, are of such a nature that this decision would not seem likely to affect the Attorney-General's opinion before referred to; and, it may be added, that a case having been subsequently laid before Mr. Blacker, on behalf of the Commissioners of Education, his opinion was given on the 8th of March, 1815, and was not of an encouraging nature; while the difficulty arising from the lapse of time is now, of course, considerably increased."

Besides losing so much of its income, the management of this charity was, in other respects, so unsatisfactory as to call for proceedings to compel the due performance of the trusts. These included the support of a school, where as many poor boys as the Corporation should nominate, were to be maintained, educated, and provided, on St. Stephen's-day, each with a blue coat and cap, and other fit clothing. These, and the other trusts of the endowment, not Ev. 1374.

Boarding schools. Charges on Income in Income.

having been properly examined, an information was filed in the Attorney-General for the due administration thereof, and on the 21st of August, 1851, a scheme for the future management of the charity was lodged in the Court of Chancery. It limited the number of free boarders to twenty, and empowered the trustees to reduce the number in case the funds of the charity proved deficient. The boys were to be legitimate, and their parents members of the Church; and children from the Liberties of Cork to have a preference over other natives of the county.

From the evidence taken at our public Court held at Cork, it appeared that the trusts of the charity continued to be abused in relation to the management of the revenues which remained. Nor is this to be wondered at, since it appears that the master, who is himself the secretary to the Board of Trustees, never saw the rules for the management of the establishment.

Ib. [illegible]
Ib. [illegible]

Taylor, vol. ii. p. [illegible]

The school was inspected by our Assistant Commissioner, who does not report favourably, either as to the proficiency of the pupils or the cleanliness of the establishment. The trustees, in the exercise of the discretion conferred on them by the Chancery scheme, have reduced the number of boarders to eighteen. Of these only fifteen were present at the time of inspection. The master receives a salary of £25, late currency, and has apartments, a garden, and other advantages. He is allowed by the trustees a fixed sum of £[illegible] a year, late currency, for the maintenance of each boarder—an arrangement which holds out a strong inducement to the master to provide for the wants and comforts of the pupils as sparingly as possible.

Ibid. p. [illegible] supra.

Innan School, by the Rev. Mr. Doherty, County of Tipperary—see Ballinure.

Downpatrick, Blue School for Boys.—Blue School for Girls, County of Down.

By a codicil to his will, in 1750, Edward Southwell, Esq., charged some lands in the county of Down with £[illegible] 1s. 1d. a-year, of which £144 1s. 1d. was in aid of the Blue Schools in the town of Downpatrick, and the rest for an almshouse. He appears to have previously assisted them; and he directed, by the codicil to his will, that the school buildings and ground then attached thereto, should for ever remain to the same purposes; and that ten poor boys and ten poor girls of the Protestant religion should be educated, clothed, and dieted, and apprenticed to Protestant masters and mistresses out of the funds of the endowment. The children thus placed on the foundation are called "Blue Scholars," and are all free; but the master may also receive as many pupils as he likes on terms fixed by himself.

The property out of which this annuity is payable passed from the possession of Lord de Clifford, the head of the Southwell family, and was purchased by Mr. Ker, who came into possession in 1845, and the charity is now managed under his directions. The free pupils are not boarded in the school, which is attended by day scholars only; but they or their parents are paid in money a fixed sum per quarter for board. Besides receiving assistance for boarding, the pupils are also entitled to be apprenticed out of the funds of the charity; and Mr. Ker's agent stated that this provision is invariably carried into effect.

Ev. 1858, 1890, [illegible].
Ev. [illegible]–4.
Ev. 1900.

Taylor, vol. ii. p. [illegible].

Our Assistant Commissioner reports unfavourably of these schools. The total number of pupils in the boys' school, including the Blue scholars, was thirty-nine, of whom seventeen were present; of the girls nineteen were present. Our Assistant Commissioner notices, with disapprobation, that the schoolmistress had been in the habit of taking in lodgers during the assizes; but he was informed that this practice would be discontinued. The school suffers much from the want of adequate inspection. The clergyman, who occasionally visits it, found his remonstrances as to the bad state of education neglected year after year. Under such circumstances, there is no encouragement to frequent inspection; and even were he to inspect frequently, so long as it is known that his remonstrances are not attended to, the visits would be of little use in promoting improvement. The incompetence of the master and mistress was made manifest at our public court. They have since been superannuated by the trustee, and trained teachers appointed in their places.

Ev. 1921–23, 1[illegible]–[illegible].

Drogheda Blue School, County of Louth.

The origin of the Drogheda Blue School, which appears to have escaped the notice of the Commissioners of 1791 and 1807–12, is given in the Report on

English Schools Visited or Noticed in Evidence.

having been properly executed, an information was filed by the Attorney-General for the due administration thereof, and, on the 21st of August, 1851, a scheme for the future management of the charity was decreed by the Court of Chancery. It limited the number of free boarders to twenty, and empowered the trustees to reduce the number in case the funds of the charity proved deficient. The boys were to be legitimate, and their parents members of the United Church; and children from the Liberties of Cork to have a preference over other natives of the county.

From the evidence taken at our public Court held at Cork, it appeared that the trusts of the charity continued to be abused in relation to the management of the revenues which remained. Nor is this to be wondered at, since it appears that the master, who is himself the Secretary to the Board of Trustees, never saw the rules for the management of the establishment.

Ev. 1440.
Ev. 1468.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 315.

The school was inspected by our Assistant Commissioner, who does not report favourably, either as to the proficiency of the pupils or the cleanliness of the establishment. The trustees, in the exercise of the discretion conferred on them by the Chancery Scheme, have reduced the number of boarders to eighteen. Of these only fifteen were present at the time of inspection. The master receives a salary of £25, late currency, and has apartments, a garden, and other advantages. He is allowed by the trustees a fixed sum of £16 a-year, late currency, for the maintenance of each boarder—an arrangement which holds out a strong inducement to the master to provide for the wants and comforts of the pupils as sparingly as possible.

Vide p. 143 *supra*.

Doon School, by the Rev. Mr. Doherty, County of Tipperary—see *Ballinure*.

Downpatrick, Blue School for Boys.—Blue School for Girls, County of Down.

By a codicil to his will, in 1750, Edward Southwell, Esq., charged some lands in the county of Down with £218 15*s.* 5*d.* a-year, of which £144 18*s.* 1*d.* was in aid of the Blue Schools in the town of Downpatrick, and the rest for an almshouse. He appears to have previously assisted them; and he directed, by the codicil to his will, that the school buildings and ground then attached thereto, should for ever remain to the same purposes; and that ten poor boys and ten poor girls of the Protestant religion should be educated, clothed, and dieted, and apprenticed to Protestant masters and mistresses out of the funds of the endowment. The children thus placed on the foundation are called "Blue Scholars," and are all free; but the master may also receive as many pupils as he likes on terms fixed by himself.

Ev. 9836, 9860, 9871.

The property out of which this annuity is payable passed from the possession of Lord de Clifford, the head of the Southwell family, and was purchased by Mr. Ker, who came into possession in 1845, and the charity is now managed under his directions. The free pupils are not boarded in the school, which is attended by day scholars only; but they or their parents are paid in money a fixed sum per quarter for board. Besides receiving assistance for boarding, the pupils are also entitled to be apprenticed out of the funds of the charity; and Mr. Ker's agent stated that this provision is invariably carried into effect.

Ev. 9971–4.

Ev. 9980.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 563.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports unfavourably of these schools. The total number of pupils in the boys' school, including the Blue scholars, was thirty-nine, of whom seventeen were present; of the girls nineteen were present. Our Assistant Commissioner notices, with disapprobation, that the schoolmistress had been in the habit of taking in lodgers during the assizes; but he was informed that this practice would be discontinued. The school suffers much from the want of adequate inspection. The clergyman, who occasionally visits it, found his remonstrances as to the bad state of education neglected year after year. Under such circumstances, there is no encouragement to frequent inspection; and even were he to inspect frequently, so long as it is known that his remonstrances are not attended to, the visits would be of little use in promoting improvement. The incompetence of the master and mistress was made manifest at our public court. They have since been superannuated by the trustee, and trained teachers appointed in their places.

Ev. 9921–63, 10068–88.

Drogheda Blue School, County of Louth.

The origin of the Drogheda Blue School, which appears to have escaped the notice of the Commissioners of 1791 and 1807–12, is given in the Report on

up in pencilling, and omissions of debits, are of frequent occurrence, as well as omissions of the names of the tenants in the index to the Rent Leger. During this period the agent appears to have been not only uncontrolled, but left to himself, in most instances, to set lands, abate rents, and accept tenants as he pleased; and it is hardly possible to suppose that the Governors ever inspected the Rent Legers and would not have ordered them to be more regularly kept.'"

Very many bequests and donations have been made to the Hospital, from time to time, amounting to a large sum. The Assistant Commissioner states:—

"It is much to be regretted that the attention of the Governors was not directed to the importance of investing a portion at least of those large funds, so as gradually to increase the permanent capital of the charity. Tables, vol. iii. p. 104.

"The affairs of the Blue Coat Hospital have, from the commencement down to the present time, been very grossly mismanaged. It were useless to recapitulate here the evidence on which this statement is founded. Ample proofs of its correctness are afforded by the able Report of Mr. O'Brien, the evidence given before the present Commission in public Court, and the summary of facts contained in my Report.

"The loss of so much valuable property once belonging to the endowment, and the neglect to keep proper books of account and other records of the proceedings of the Governors are painful features in the past history of this noble charity. Had these instances of mismanagement occurred only in the earlier periods of the existence of the institution, the cause might have been attributed to the confusion of the times. But what excuse can be found for the fact, that within the last few years several of the Stephen's-green and Oxmantown lots have been for ever lost to the institution, owing to the Governors having neglected to take proceedings, within twenty years, for the recovery of the rents due thereout."

With regard to the present state of instruction and discipline of the school, his report is satisfactory. He says:—

"I had the opportunity of hearing the boys examined by the Rev. Dr. Graves, and I then formed a favourable opinion of their educational attainments. On the occasion of my subsequent visit to the institution, I examined the boys in English dictation, grammar, geography, and English history, and the general proficiency displayed was such as to satisfy me that my previously formed favourable impressions were fully justified. I therefore point out no defect in the quality of instruction given, so far as it extends. I could wish, however, to see the amount of instruction extended, by embracing navigation, drawing, some parts of experimental science, and French and German. Having regard to their after pursuits in life (which appear to be chiefly of a commercial character), an acquisition of modern languages, especially the two which I have indicated, is a matter of great importance to the pupils. It would, however, be obviously impracticable, with the present very limited educational staff, to introduce these or any other extensions of the present school course. One master and one assistant are not sufficient to superintend the education of seventy boys, even in the branches now taught in the school." Ibid. p. 105.

He noticed, in his first report, some defects in the arrangements of the school, but he stated the result of a subsequent visit to be, "that he was gratified to observe a considerable change for the better. The ventilation has been very much improved, a perforated ventilating zinc pane being introduced into each window of the dormitories and infirmary. The dormitories and schoolroom are heated by pipes filled with hot water. A gymnastic pole has been erected in the play-ground, and some additions have been made to the library, in pursuance of an excellent resolution passed by the Board, appropriating for the future an annual sum of £10 towards its maintenance. The number of boys has been increased, there being now eighty on the foundation." Ibid.

We are of opinion that the course of instruction in the Blue Coat Hospital should be extended so as to embrace navigation, drawing, experimental science, French, German, and book-keeping; that the establishment charges should be diminished, and the educational staff increased; that the number of boys maintained on the charity should be increased; that the Governors should be authorized to allow a provision for their maintenance in the form of scholarships to boys residing outside the hospital; that the school should be open to a large number of day scholars, properly selected; and that provision should be made for the admission of pupil-teachers, that the school might serve, to some extent, as a training-school for masters.

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Ev. 22412.

Another subject that came under our inquiry was the state of the accounts and the system of audit. It appeared that about the year 1845 the Governors had been under the necessity of employing an accountant to put the accounts of the charity in order. We had their accounts examined by the Government Accountant attached to our Commission, and he called our attention to the fact that they had not been audited by the Audit Office in London, as required by the provisions of the Municipal Reform Act, under which the charity had been separated from the Corporation of Dublin. There had been a Board of Audit in Ireland down to the year 1831; but in the year 1840, when the Municipal Reform Act was passed, it was provided that the auditing of the accounts of the Blue Coat Hospital and of the different Municipal Corporations in Ireland should be transferred to the Board of Audit in London, no such Board being then in existence in Dublin. It was stated in evidence before us, that in the year 1846 certain accounts were furnished by the Governors to the Board of Audit in London; but that these accounts had not been returned, nor had any certificate of audit been given. After that year the accounts had not been sent, nor had they been even asked for. It thus appeared that at the end of sixteen years the system of auditing the Blue Coat Hospital accounts by the Board of Audit in London, provided by the Municipal Reform Act, had entirely failed, for not one of the accounts for those sixteen years had been audited.

Ev. 22341.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 329.

Upon this state of facts appearing before us in evidence, we addressed a communication to the Commissioners for Auditing Public Accounts in London, inquiring at what time the accounts of the Governors were forwarded to the Board of Audit, and whether any accounts required by the Board had not been furnished, or whether those sent had been found unsatisfactory; and if so, whether any explanation had been applied for and not furnished.

Ibid.

We received a reply, stating that certain of the accounts referred to had been received at the Audit Office, but that certain questions having been referred to the law officers of the Crown, difficulties were found to exist as to a satisfactory audit of the accounts of the Municipal Corporations of Ireland, which, with the accounts of the Blue Coat Hospital, were to have been rendered to the Audit Office, under the 3rd and 4th Vic. cap. 108. The subject was subsequently brought under the notice of the Lords of the Treasury, with a view to its being determined whether these accounts should continue to be audited by the Audit Board, but it appears that no instructions had been received from the Treasury on the subject.

Ibid.

Upon the receipt of this communication, we felt it to be our duty to bring under the notice of the Lords Commissioners of your Majesty's Treasury the state of the Blue Coat Hospital accounts, as their Lordships had been mentioned in the letter from the Audit Office.

Ibid. p. 330.

We received a reply, stating that the subject of the audit of the accounts of Municipal Corporations and of certain Endowed Schools in Ireland had been taken into consideration by your Majesty's Government in 1846, when so much difficulty was found to exist in establishing an efficient system of audit by the Board in London, that further proceedings on the subject were then dropped.

Ibid.

The Lords Commissioners at the same time directed that a copy of a Report of the Commissioners of Audit of the 27th of February, 1846, should be transmitted to us, that we might learn from it the nature of the difficulties to which they had referred, and the Lords Commissioners were pleased to observe that it might properly form the subject of our consideration—what remedial measures could be adopted in the case of the Endowed Schools for the proper examination of their accounts.

In consequence of this reference to us, we have taken the Report of the Audit Commissioners into our consideration, and we find that the system of audit provided by the Municipal Corporation Reform Act has failed, as well with regard to the Corporations as with respect to the Endowed Schools.

3 & 4 Vic. c. 108, sec. 213.

It appears that out of the forty-seven annual accounts, comprising during a period of five years (the Act having been passed in 1840) 235 accounts, only two had been audited in 1846.

Some of the accounts furnished, which had been referred to the Audit Commissioners by the Secretary of State in 1843, had not been accompanied by vouchers, and had been found defective in other respects.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 331.

The Report further states, that up to 1846, out of forty-seven corporations (including the Blue Coat Hospital) that have corporate property, the accounts of

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pupils in each school are free, and others pay—those in the boys' school at the rate of 4*s.* 4*d.* and those in the girls' school at £1 6*s.* a-year. Both schools are in a satisfactory state; but it is observed that, among the girls, those who pay are better instructed than the free pupils.

Kilglass, Valentine's School, County of Sligo.

Ev. 6334. The Rev. Dr. Valentine, by his will in 1763, left £400 for the support of a Protestant charity school, and for putting out a few Protestant apprentices to trades. At first it does not appear that the income of this bequest was employed except to the extent of about £2 a-year, for the rent of a cabin where the school was kept, and £8 salary for a master. The remainder of the interest was suffered to accumulate, and the Commissioners of 1807-12 notice that the endowment then amounted to £1,500. The school is under the management of the vicar of the parish in which it is situate, and the bishop of the diocese, as directed by the will of the founder. It appears that the directions to apprentice are rarely carried into effect; but the principal portion of the endowment is expended in paying a teacher, and providing requisites for a day school, at which nearly all the pupils are free. The remainder of the endowment is applied towards the support of two other schools in the same parish.

Ev. 6340-1.

Ev. 6324.

Ev. 6342.

Ev. 6544-5. Tables, vol. iii. p. 724. Ibid. p. 730.

When our Assistant Commissioner inspected the school, he found it in a very unsatisfactory state, the studies of the pupils being extremely limited, and their acquaintance, even with the brief course they had gone over, being very imperfect. The numbers on the roll were ninety-eight, of whom fifty-five belonged to the United Church, while forty-three were Roman Catholics. All the pupils are free, with the exception of a few, who pay a small sum for their education.

Killead Endowments, County of Antrim.

By his will, in 1825, John Campbell, Esq., bequeathed personal property, which now produces £20 9*s.* per annum, for the use of such school, in the townland of Ballyrobin, in the parish of Killead, as his brother might designate. This trust continues to be carried out, and the bequest goes to the assistance of a National School, which is well attended, and in a satisfactory condition. But there is another endowment for the same parish, sometimes confounded with the preceding, which was brought under our notice at our public court held at Belfast, and appears to stand in need of being protected. This arose in 1827, under the will of John Dunne, Esq., who bequeathed £400, £100 of which was for building a schoolhouse, and the interest of the remainder to constitute the endowment of a school which he had planned, for the benefit of his tenantry in Killead. His representative contented himself with making an annual payment to a pre-existing school, the teacher of the Killead National School, before referred to, being paid out of the Dunne bequest. At first, pecuniary payments were made; but, in 1850, the master became a tenant of part of the testator's lands, and instead of receiving the annual payment, as before, was allowed an equivalent in his rent. This continued until one year after the death, in 1852, of Mr. Richard Dunne, the testator's son, who was succeeded by Mr. Stewart, his devisee, who, after making the allowance on one occasion, in 1853, has since that time refused to do so.

Ev. 10300.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 452.

Ibid. Our Assistant Commissioner inquired into this endowment, and recommended that immediate steps should be taken to protect it, before it is lost, by the operation of the Statute of Limitation. We accordingly forwarded an extract from his Report to the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests.

Limerick, Bow-lane, Charity Blue School, County of Limerick.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 377. In the Appendix to the Report of 1791 it is stated that "Mrs. Alicia Craven, in the year 1724, granted to the Bishop, Dean, Mayor, and Recorder of Limerick, and their successors, for ever, several houses, in trust for the support of a charity school, called the Blue School. The rents of those houses, with the aid of other donations and some casual benefactions, enable the trustees to clothe and educate twenty boys, and to bind them as apprentices, with a fee of £4 each."

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 340-351. By her will, dated 1729, Alice Craven devised to trustees £40 a-year, out of two houses, "in trust for the charity schools of Limerick, as by deed of 1724 may appear."

Ibid. The deed of 1724, alluded to in Alice Craven's will, was not in possession of the trustees, nor among the records of the Corporation; but at a late period of our inquiry we instituted a search with reference to it, which proved successful. From the memorial which we discovered, it appears that by deed, dated 20th

Ibid. 350.

October, 1724, Alice Craven conveyed apparently five houses in trust, for schooling, clothing, and binding to trades, twenty poor Protestant children, to be nominated by grantor's relations, in manner specified. Without local inquiry, which we did not institute, owing to the lateness of the time at which we obtained the memorial of the deed, it is difficult to say whether all the property conveyed by the deed and will is enjoyed by the charity or not.

In succeeding Reports and returns this school is frequently noticed; and, until within a recent period, it seems to have been conducted on the footing just described, except that the number of boys maintained there was generally fewer. But when we inquired into this school at our public Court at Limerick, it appeared that it was managed in a very different manner, and reduced to a most unsatisfactory condition. For some time previously the school had been used almost entirely for the benefit of the boys in the Cathedral choir, the majority of whom were natives of England. Ev. 2893–8; 2911; 3294.

The children were no longer clothed out of the funds of the endowment, which it was alleged had been required for payment of a debt contracted; the practice of apprenticing had also been discontinued. The funds appeared to have been greatly curtailed, and were in danger of being reduced still further, owing to the uncertainty existing as to what they are or had been, and the disposition which always prevails in such cases to make encroachments. Ev. 3369 *et seq.*

As for the schoolhouse, built out of the funds of the endowment in 1773, so satisfied were the dean and chapter that it was their own property, that they contemplated at one time throwing it down, as being an excrescence on the cathedral. Ev. 2837, 3359.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports unfavourably on the condition of the school; but he observes that the present arrangements are merely of a temporary character, the late master having resigned, and the present one holding his appointment only until an efficient successor can be provided. Tables, vol. iii. p. 351.

With respect to the endowment of the school, it is stated that previous to Mrs. Craven's endowment, the Rev. John Moore, in 1717, granted a house towards the support of the charity, which house was let, in 1787, at an annual rent of £17. No benefit is now derived from this gift, nor can it be discovered at what time it ceased. The Corporation, it seems, paid £20 annually to this charity from 1721 to 1845, when they discontinued the payment; but it is not stated that it was otherwise than optional on their part. The trustees lent part of the funds of the endowment on private security, which has since been lost. At present the annual revenue of this charity amounts to £59 10*s.* 4*d.*, of which £27 is the rent of the property, or part of the property, granted by Mrs. Craven; £11 1*s.* 6*d.*, the interest of £200 lent by the trustees to the dean and chapter; and £21 8*s.* 10*d.*, the dividends on a sum which had been recovered by the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests, after having been lent on private security by the trustees. Ibid. p. 359.

We are of opinion that two inhabitants of Limerick, should, from time to time, be appointed trustees, in the place of the Mayor and Recorder, who have ceased to act; by the local knowledge of such trustees the property of the endowments and the rights of the children of the inhabitants would be protected.

Limerick—Villiers' Endowments, County of Limerick.

By her will, in 1819, Mrs. Hannah Villiers bequeathed a small portion of her property for certain charitable purposes, and stated that the trusts of the remainder should be declared in a codicil to her will; and, in default thereof, that her property should be employed for such charitable and humane purposes as her trustees should approve of. By a codicil, she disposed of but a very small part of the remainder of the property, and, after her death, a suit was instituted in Chancery to administer her estate. In 1826 it was directed by a decree of the Court, that the funds of the charity should be devoted to the support of an almshouse for widows, and several schools. The schools established in compliance with the decree, and the scheme prepared thereunder, are those in St. Nicholas-street—one for the education of poor boys, not to exceed 100 in number, and the other, for a like number of girls—the pupils to be instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic; and those in Henry-street—one for boys, like that of St. Nicholas-street, and the other, for boarding, lodging, and instructing in reading, writing, arithmetic, and plain work, a number of Protestant orphan girls, not less than twenty, or more than thirty; and also for a day school of the same kind as the others already noticed. The schools in St. Nicholas-street are placed Tables, vol. iii. p. 355. Ibid. p. 344. Ibid. p. 340–2.

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in connexion with the National Board of Education. Those in Henry-street remain on their original footing.

The charity estate applicable for those purposes, consists of £47 19*s.* 1*d.* a-year derived from a rent-charge, and £656 4*s.* from personal estate in the Funds, amounting to £21,873 2*s.* 3*d.* There has, moreover, been a sum of £7,507 18*s.* 1*d.* expended by the Trustees on the purchase of a site, and on building the school-houses and the almshouse.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 356.

Our Assistant Commissioner who inspected the schools on this foundation, notices them, for the most part, favourably. The boys' school at St. Nicholas-street, is not, indeed, altogether satisfactory; the proficiency of the pupils not being such as might be expected from the value of the endowment and the attainments of the master; but the girls' school in St. Nicholas-street, and the boys' and girls' schools in Henry-street, are noticed very favourably, especially Henry-street boys' school. The pupils, however, are not numerous in any of them. They are chiefly members of the United Church. The total number of pupils on the roll at St. Nicholas-street, are thirty-five in the boys' school, and forty-three in the girls'; and the numbers at Henry-street are, fifty boys and forty-four girls. The actual average attendance is much less, being twenty-one, twenty-four, forty-two, and thirty-two for each of these schools respectively.

Ibid. pp. 353–4.

Limerick, St. Mary's—Dr. Hall's Schools—Boys and Girls, County of Limerick.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 342, 354.

In 1687 Dr. Jeremiah Hall bequeathed some property for the support of an almshouse and charity schools. The number of children proposed to be kept in the school, at the same time, by the founder, was twenty boys and as many girls. And this was the attendance when the Commissioners of 1791 made their Report, in which it is also stated that all the pupils were free, and that the apprentice fees given with each amounted to two guineas.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 377.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 354.

The Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests subsequently found it necessary to take proceedings with respect to this endowment, and in 1834 obtained a decree. The estate of the charity has since been under their control. It consists of house property, stated to be rapidly deteriorating in value, but now worth nearly £200 a-year; of this, the agent to the property, and manager of the establishment, is paid £50, and a bailiff, £10. Besides house property, there is a sum of £379 of three per cent. stock belonging to the institution; but no annual aid is afforded from this source, and it is to be presumed that the dividends are suffered to accumulate.

Ibid. p. 355.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that the state of the boys' school is satisfactory, but that of the girls' school, not satisfactory. As there appears to be no efficient control exercised over the schools, the good condition of that for boys must be attributed altogether to the master. The number of boys on the roll is forty-five, all belonging to the United Church except seven, who are Roman Catholics. The number at the girls' school is thirty-two, of whom five are Roman Catholics, and the rest members of the United Church. Besides neglect in the management of the schools on the part of those in charge of the endowment, there seems also to be inefficiency in the management of the charity estate, which, it is stated, is deteriorating in value.

In connexion with the deterioration of the house property in this case and that of the Blue School, we are of opinion that house property, requiring, as it must, constant vigilance and expenditure, is not a suitable investment for trustees of charities, and that they should be enabled to dispose of it, and lay out the produce on land or head rents.

Limerick, Hartstronge-street, Leamy Free Schools—Boys and Girls, County of Limerick.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 340–352.

In 1814, William Leamy, Esq., left the residue of his property, amounting to upwards of £13,300, for the education of the children of the poor in Ireland, especially those in the neighbourhood of the city of Limerick. The Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests were obliged to take proceedings in the Court of Chancery in England, to recover this endowment, which had passed into the hands of persons resident in London. They succeeded in the suit, and obtained a decree in their favour; and eventually, in the year 1842, a scheme was settled under the direction of the Court of Chancery, in Ireland, for the management of the charity, and governors were appointed to superintend its due execution. According to the provisions of the scheme, a mixed Board of eleven Governors was appointed, the vacancies to be filled up at meetings of the Board,

Ev. 3662.

the selection being limited to persons to be approved of by the Lord Chancellor, and connected by residence, or property, with the neighbourhood of the city of Limerick. The pupils were to be taught gratuitously, and to receive a good English education; members of the United Church to be instructed in the Scriptures, and Roman Catholics, in the Scripture Lessons in the National school-books.

At our public Court, at Limerick, we received evidence as to this endowment. The Lord Bishop of Limerick brought under our notice a large claim for legacy duty, to the amount of £1,500, which has been made upon its funds. It is stated by our Assistant Commissioner that this claim has since been decided against the charity. The principal master was also examined as to the management of the school, and particularly as regarded the falling off of late years in the attendance. It seems that the Roman Catholic children left the school in considerable numbers some time back. The Lord Chancellor's scheme of management requires the daily use of the Scriptures as a school-book for Protestants, and of the Scripture Lessons for all the Roman Catholic pupils. This rule, the master stated, is enforced, and the Archdeacon attends to examine in the Catechism of the Church of England; but it is only the pupils belonging to the United Church who are expected to take part in this branch of instruction.

Ev. 3665.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 353.

Ev. 3674–8.

Ev. 3685, &c.

Our Assistant Commissioner, who inspected the boys and girls' schools on this foundation, does not notice either of them favourably, and dwells much upon the want of any efficient inspection. At the boys' school there are seventy-seven pupils on the roll, twenty-six belonging to the United Church, and fifty-one Roman Catholics; and at the girls' school seventy-five, of whom forty-eight are members of the United Church, and twenty-seven Roman Catholics. But the number on the roll far exceeds the actual attendance, which does not appear to have much exceeded forty during the past year. There is a strong feeling prevalent in favour of placing the schools under the management of the National Board of Education; and it is stated that a memorial has been prepared for the purpose.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 353.

Of the funds bequeathed for this charity, which, as before noticed, were recovered by proceedings in the Court of Chancery, in England, about £10,000 has been transferred to this country. Of this sum £3,940 has been expended on the school site and buildings, and the interest of the remainder is employed in the support of the teachers and maintenance of the schools. The portion of the residuary estate of the founder, not transferred from England, will, it is supposed, be almost entirely exhausted by costs and stamp duties. A particular exemption in favour of Irish Charities is given by the 38th section of Act of 5 and 6 Vic., c. 82, assimilating the duties in England and Ireland:—"Provided also that nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to charge with duty *in Ireland* any legacy given for the education or maintenance of poor children in Ireland, or to be applied in support of any charitable institution in Ireland, or for any purpose merely charitable." The question at issue in the Court, in 1856, was, whether or not the domicile of the testator, at the time of his death, was in the United Kingdom or elsewhere. It was held to be in England, and, therefore, his residuary estate was not exempt from legacy duty.*

Ibid. p. 352.

We are of opinion that the principle of exemption from legacy duty should be extended to all charities applicable in Ireland, independent of the domicile of the testator.

Londonderry—Gwyn Charitable Institution, County of Londonderry.

The Gwyn Charitable Institution, one of the finest and best managed boarding schools of private foundation in Ireland, was endowed by the late Mr. John Gwyn, a merchant, of the city of Londonderry, who died in 1829. In 1830 an Act was passed for incorporating the trustees named in his will, and establishing and executing the trusts therein created. These were the clothing, support, and education of poor boys of the city of Derry and its vicinity; all to receive instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and such as showed superior talents to be taught book-keeping and navigation, and apprenticed to trading or seafaring pursuits. He directed, also, that the establishment should be open to persons of all religious persuasions, but coupled this with a provision that the master and assistant should be Protestants, or Protestant Dissenters, and all the children instructed in the Scriptures. The Roman Catholic pupils, however, are

Tables, vol. iii. p. 619.

1 Wm. IV. c. 47.

* *Times*, 24th July, and 2nd August, 1856.

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Ev. 13359. 50 Geo. III. c. 33. 18 & 19 Vic. c. 39.

The site selected by the trustees for the erection of a seminary, as directed by the founder, at an estimated cost of about £5,000, is only secured for a term of ninety-one years, the longest lease which the proprietor, the Earl of Granard, was entitled to grant. It has been already noticed that in 1810, persons under disabilities were empowered to grant school sites in perpetuity; but until 1855, it was necessary that a bishop of the United Church should be a party to the deed. This, no doubt, prevented the trustees of this Roman Catholic charity from obtaining in perpetuity the sites on which they expended so much; but at present, should the proper parties consent, there is nothing to prevent the trustees from placing their endowment on a secure and permanent basis.

Ev. 13357-9. Tables, vol. iii. p. 225. Ev. 13388, 13398.

We received evidence respecting this school at our public Court at Mullingar. When our Assistant Commissioner visited Mullingar, he found the school building not yet completed, but in a very forward state. It was intended to place the English department under the superintendence of the Christian Brothers. As to the classical department the arrangements had not been fixed.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 229.

Our Assistant Commissioner inspected the private classical school, where such children as the trustees think fit are at present instructed. The number of free pupils now there is twelve, exclusive of such day pupils as the master is paid for.

Swords' Borough School, County of Dublin.

Ev. 14018.

At the time of the Legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland, several boroughs were disfranchised, and pecuniary compensation awarded to the persons interested. In the case of the borough of Swords, the pecuniary compensation was £15,000. It had been one of those boroughs called "pot-walloping," where the suffrage was placed on so very extensive a basis, that it was popularly supposed to be enjoyed by every inhabitant who could boil his own pot. As Swords was not a close borough, the compensation money consequent on its abolition was given for the benefit of the inhabitants at large. The trustees for the management of this fund, incorporated by Charter in 1804, were the Lord Chancellor for the time being, and several dignitaries of the United Church. It was directed by the Charter that the compensation money should be invested in the funds, and the interest applied to the maintenance of schools for the daily education of the children of the inhabitants of the borough, in reading, writing, and arithmetic; the children not to be resident boarders, but to receive one meal a-day at the school. It was directed that the surplus remaining after this expenditure should be employed in apprenticing the pupils to useful trades and occupations; and if any further surplus remained, it was to be employed in premiums for the encouragement of agriculture and manufacture, or in such other manner as the trustees might think calculated to promote "the Christian religion and morality, good order, sobriety, cleanliness, industry, and wealth, within the said borough."

Ev. 14018.

Ev. 14023.

A schoolhouse was built shortly afterwards, and the school is noticed very favourably in the Thirteenth Report of the Commissioners of 1807–12. The number of pupils then amounted to 261. In the Second Report of the Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry, 1826, the school is again noticed, and the attendance had then risen to about 300. It continued very large for some time afterwards, but eventually declined to a very insignificant number, owing to the withdrawal of the Roman Catholic pupils, in 1853, in consequence of dissatisfaction at the regulations of the school. This dissatisfaction had existed for many years, and numerous efforts had been made on behalf of the Roman Catholics to have the grounds of it removed. The Commissioners of Municipal Corporations in Ireland state, in their Report in 1833, that it was made a subject of complaint before them—that, while the great majority of the pupils were Roman Catholics, there were no teachers of that persuasion. Some years subsequent to this, memorials on behalf of the Roman Catholic inhabitants of Swords were laid before the Governors of the school, after having been first submitted to the Archbishop of Dublin, one of their number. A copy of the memorial presented in 1842 being read before us in evidence, it appeared that the chief complaints then made were—that Roman Catholic pupils were required to use the Sacred Scriptures as a text-book; that none of the teachers were Roman Catholics; that the relief and assistance administered out of the funds of the endowment, whether in the way of apprentice fees, coals, or medical relief, was intrusted solely to the discretion of the Protestant vicar; that the girls were kept at needlework after school-hours, and not dismissed until nightfall, to the danger of their health and

Ev. 14024.

Ev. 14091, 14109.

Ev. 14025.

Ev. 14062.

morals; and finally, that there was no public audit of the accounts of the funds of the endowment. The Governors declined to make the changes suggested, not so much on the grounds that they were generally unreasonable, as that the Board were not provided with the powers necessary for removing the causes of complaint. We are of opinion that the Charter of Incorporation does not prescribe the use of the Scriptures, nor impose any restriction on the religion of the teachers; and that the Board had full power to comply with the request on this head to which the memorialists attached most importance. It appeared from two letters of the late Archbishop Murray, that he was anxious that the school should be placed under the National Board. In the second of these it is stated, that in a conversation between the writer and the Archbishop of Dublin, his Grace expressed himself in favour of the proposed alteration, but recommended that it should not be brought forward until a more opportune time. This occurred in the year 1836; but it does not appear that any thing was done to satisfy the religious scruples of the Roman Catholics until late in 1855, two years after all the pupils of that persuasion had been withdrawn, and a few days before we inquired into the school. In October, 1855, a public notice was issued by the Rev. Mr. Kennedy, the Superintendent of the school, intimating that no children should be compelled to receive or be present at any religious instruction to which their parents objected; and that competition for apprentice fees should be open to the children of all who had been householders within the borough for three years previous to each examination.

Ev. 14066.

Ev. 16320-1.

Ev. 14038.

Ev. 14034.

At our public Court in Dublin we received evidence relating to the Swords school; and amongst the witnesses who appeared before us were, the Vicar of Swords, one of the Governors; the Superintendent (the Rev. Mr. Kennedy); two Roman Catholic clergymen of Swords; the teachers of the school, and several of the pupils. All the matters of complaint which had, for many years previously, been so often urged, were brought under our notice. It was distinctly charged, that in order to induce parents to send their children, apprentice fees, coals, and other advantages were conferred only on condition of the applicants or their children attending the school. Charges of excessive severity were preferred against the master. It was also alleged that in the girls' school some of the pupils were often employed until a late hour at needlework for the schoolmistress, and that the loss of apprentice fees was threatened in case of refusal. Both the principal schoolmaster and the schoolmistress, his daughter, were examined with reference to such of these charges as related to their departments. The evidence given by each was at variance with that of the pupils whom we examined on the same subjects, and appeared to us to be undeserving of credit.

Ev. 14763-808, 15261-92, 15320-63, 15449-70, 15567-83, 15516-635, 15875-81.

We visited this school and found the attendance small, and the state of instruction in the boys' school very unsatisfactory. Since the time we visited the school, and received evidence respecting it, the principal master has been dismissed; but his son-in-law, the former assistant master, has been appointed to succeed him; his daughter, the principal mistress, retains her place; and the dismissed master himself is allowed to reside in the schoolhouse. It is not likely that such inadequate measures of reform will secure public confidence in the management of the establishment, and render the school generally available for the benefit of the inhabitants of Swords. As yet no such result has been attained, and all the pupils belong to the United Church, with the exception of two, who are Presbyterians. The total number on the rolls in the boys', girls', and infant schools, are only sixty-five, and of these but forty-eight were present to partake of the benefits of an endowment exceeding £700 a-year. The state of instruction in the girls' school was very good, and, in the opinion of our Assistant Commissioner, reflected much credit on the efficiency of the second mistress. The state of the boys' and infant school was not equal to that of the girls', and in the former the course of instruction was very limited, but appeared to satisfy the requirements of the Charter, so far as related to secular education.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 46-7.

The conduct of the former assistant master, who has been appointed master, and of the principal mistress, seems to us so unsatisfactory as to call for their dismissal.

We are of opinion that this charity has not been managed with a due regard to the feelings and circumstances of the persons interested in it. Neither can we express our approval of the manner in which the duties of local superintendence have been performed.

It appears to us that a charity like the Swords Borough School, the benefits

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of which were intended to be conferred without religious distinction, ought not to be intrusted to the administration of an exclusive Board, and especially of one on which the most numerous class of the inhabitants are entirely unrepresented.

40 Geo. III. c. 34. Ev. 14018.

We recommend that the statutable provisions constituting the Board of Governors of the Swords Borough School should be repealed and the Charter rescinded, and that the funds and management of the charity should be transferred to the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

Vide p. 143 *supra*. *Templeneiry and Toem Schools, by Rev. J. Doherty, County of Tipperary.*—[See *Ballinure.*]

Tubrid—Vaughan's Charity, County of Fermanagh.

Ev. 12184.

By his will made in 1735, George Vaughan, Esq. left part of his estate for the purpose of establishing a school, which he directed should be called "the Charitable Charter School of George Vaughan, Esq.;" he also provided for the building of a church for the accommodation of the pupils. The number of children he proposed to assist was 300 boys and 200 girls, and these were to be educated and maintained, and instructed in the linen manufacture and in husbandry. In order that the property might become sufficient to support so extensive an establishment, he directed that the yearly produce should be suffered to accumulate, and laid out from time to time in the purchase of lands, until so much should be realized for the support of the charity as would yield £2,000 a-year. He directed that part of his estate not devoted to the school—a moiety of the entire—should revert to the Incorporated Society, then two years in existence, in default of the heirs of certain persons' objects of his bounty; but this contingent devise never took effect.

15 & 16 Geo. III. c. 38.

The testator's relations were debarred from enjoying their share of the devise until the property had accumulated to the extent directed, and in order to obviate the inconvenience of waiting so long, they came to an agreement with the trustees to divide the property without further delay. This agreement was sanctioned by statute in 1776, thirteen years after the death of the testator, the entire property, both real and personal, then producing but £1,284 15*s.* per annum.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 375.

This endowment was brought into operation in 1787, and the Commissioners of 1791 notice the institution in their report as supporting, owing to a law suit, only thirty boys, but the accommodation was deemed sufficient for seventy.

Ev. 12184-6.

Subsequent reports show an improvement in the attendance, but still it falls short of what the founder intended the endowment to support. The income of the property has increased considerably, though not, it would appear, so much as might reasonably have been expected; for while the lands of the endowment yield a net revenue, little exceeding £1,000, the government valuation, generally supposed to be below the letting value, exceeds £1,800 a-year.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 584.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports favourably of the domestic arrangements of the schools. Indeed, the only fault he found with them is, that they are such as to accustom the pupils to a standard of living which persons in their rank of life are unable to maintain when they leave school. If the pupils were maintained on a less expensive scale, it would be possible to make a nearer approach to the accomplishment of the founder's intentions with respect to the number of persons to be aided by the charity.

The state of instruction is very satisfactory in the boys' school, but in the girls' school is not satisfactory; and it is to be regretted that the master, with sixty boys under his charge, is left without any assistance.

Waterford—Bishop Foy's School, County of Waterford.

Ev. 16452.

In 1707, Dr. Nathaniel Foy, Bishop of Waterford, left an estate for the support of a school in which poor children of the United Church should be taught gratis, clothed, and apprenticed. This charity was subsequently regulated by private Acts of Parliament, passed in the years 1727 and 1808; by the latter of which the powers of the trustees were extended so as to enable them, among other things, to board and lodge poor children gratis, as well as to instruct, clothe, and apprentice them. As the funds of this endowment at present exceed £1,400 a-year, they admit of a considerable number of children being adequately assisted on the more extended scale introduced by the Act of 1808.

In this school we found many of the defects that are so common in charitable

boarding schools for the poor. The schoolhouse was dirty; the children neglected; and complaints were made that the food supplied to them was deficient in quantity, and bad in quality. We received evidence concerning the state of this school at our public Court at Waterford, and examined a considerable number of witnesses, including the bishop of the diocese, and the dean, both trustees of the charity, the schoolmaster and housekeeper, the physician who attended the school, the agent of the school estate, and the parents of several of the pupils. Their evidence showed a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, both as to the care of the children and the state of instruction. The school had formerly six more trustees and managers than at present, all dwelling in the locality, and thus more favourably situated for exercising supervision than the present trustees, who do not reside constantly in the town or in its immediate neighbourhood. The Mayor of Waterford was formerly one of the trustees; and he, with three of the aldermen, and the city sheriffs, had a voice in the admission of free pupils. But, as the charity is an exclusive one, when the civic offices were opened to Roman Catholics, it was provided that those holding them should no longer have any right to exercise power over the school, which was thus deprived of its resident lay trustees and managers.

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Ev. 16457, 16557, 16698, 16775, 16822, 16967, 17107, 17139, 17260, &c.

Ev. 16779.

The school was inspected by our Assistant Commissioner a few months after our visit, and he found that in the meantime the house had been put in good order, and kept clean. There were thirty-two boys present, all of whom were boarders, and all free, and members of the United Church, receiving instruction in the Church catechism as well as the Scriptures. The general state of secular instruction was unsatisfactory. Only one boy could answer in the First Book of Euclid. And in history, as well as in most departments of English education, but little progress appeared to have been made, the deficiency being greatest in English dictation. The pupils answered well, however, in mental arithmetic. The Assistant Commissioner notices the want of inspection and control from which this school suffers. No one has any right to visit the school but the bishop and the dean, who are frequently absent from Waterford.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 409.

The Dean of Waterford admitted the unsatisfactory state of the school, and suggested that new trustees should be appointed, four Protestant laymen, and one Protestant clergyman, being added to the existing trustees. He also expressed an opinion unfavourable to boarding schools for the class of boys for which the school was founded.

Ev. 16776–7.
Ev. 16470.

The Bishop of Cashel stated that he was opposed to boarding schools for the poor, such as Bishop Foy's School; and that the great defect in the school was want of superintendence. He recommended that the number of trustees should be increased.

Ev. 17141.
Ev. 17152.

We think that the school stands in need of an efficient system of inspection, and that it would be desirable that it should be removed from the neighbourhood of the city of Waterford to the city itself, and converted into a day-school, with scholarships for orphans and poor children.

We recommend that the Acts of Parliament by which the school is governed should be repealed, and that the entire management of the school be transferred to the Incorporated Society, with power to effect the change which we have suggested in the constitution of the school.

1 Geo. II. c. 1. (P.)
48 Geo. III. c. 121. (L. & P.)

Waterford—Blue Girls' School, County of Waterford.

The Waterford Blue Girls' School was endowed by several members of the Mason family in the earlier portion of the last century, and subsequently by Mr. Alcock. Sir John Mason appears to have supported a school where poor Protestant girls of the city of Waterford were clothed and educated gratis. His intention to appropriate £300 for its endowment is recited in the will (dated in 1721) of his daughter, Sarah Mason, who left £300, "to be laid out to the best advantage for the providing schooling and clothing for ten girls, after the manner of the Blue Charity children that are now maintained in this city." John Mason, brother of Sarah, by his will, dated 1735, added £300 for a similar purpose. All these donations appear to have been handed over to the Corporation of Waterford, who, in return, granted in 1742, a rent-charge of £60 for 9,999 years, to trustees, to provide clothing and schooling for thirty poor Protestant girls of Waterford, "according to the generous and charitable intent and design of Sir John Mason, John Mason, and Sarah Mason." And in the following year, 1743, Mary Mason, another

Tables, vol. iii. p. 398.
Ev. 574.
Ev. 575.
Ev. 571, 573.

English Schools Visited or Noticed in Evidence.

Ev. 573.

Ev. 577.

sister, secured to the school, for a term of 999 years, the schoolhouse, together with the garden and buildings adjoining. From a recital, in her will of that date, it appears that she herself was the owner, for a like term of 999 years, of the garden and premises, and had expended upon them a considerable amount of money, and those she devised to this charity. The endowment did not receive any permanent addition after this, until 1784, when Mr. Alcock left £1,000 to assist the Waterford Blue School; the interest to be employed in providing marriage portions for such girls brought up there as should continue members of the Protestant religion and intermarry with Protestants. He directed that a preference should be given to any one marrying a person brought up in Bishop Foy's school at Waterford; and also, that no portion should exceed £10. If the money should be more than sufficient for the purpose, he directed that the residue should be employed in portioning or apprenticing other girls of the Protestant religion in Waterford, who had not been educated at the Blue School.

We received evidence concerning this school at our public Court at Waterford, and examined the patroness, her son, and the schoolmistress.

The school was inspected by our Assistant Commissioner, who found twenty-one pupils present, out of twenty-four attending the school, all of whom were day pupils, free, and members of the United Church, every pupil being required to attend Divine Service, according to the rites of the United Church. The teachers were incompetent, the pupils badly instructed, and the schoolroom was not kept in clean condition. On the whole, this endowment is in a very unsatisfactory condition.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 410.

Concluding Observations on English Schools visited by the Commissioners or noticed in Evidence at the Public Courts.

We have, in connexion with the Ballinure and Saintfield endowments, pointed out the necessity for establishing a jurisdiction in the Assistant Barrister's Court, or some similar inexpensive process, for redressing all breaches of trust with regard to charities where the sum to be recovered was of a small amount, subject, however, to an appeal to the Chancellor on a statement of facts, signed by the Assistant Barrister.

We have recommended that the Clongesh School should be placed under the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

We have recommended that the course of instruction in the Blue Coat Hospital, Dublin, should be extended so as to embrace navigation, drawing, experimental science, French, German, and book-keeping.

That the charges of the establishment should be diminished, and the educational staff increased, and that a greater number of boys should be enabled to benefit by the charity.

That the Governors should be authorized to allow maintenance in the form of scholarships to boys residing outside the hospital.

That the school should be opened to a large number of day scholars properly selected, and that provision should be made for the admission of pupil-teachers, in order that the school may, to some extent, serve as a training school for masters.

We have recommended that the audit of the Dublin Blue Coat Hospital accounts should be transferred from the Board of Audit in London to the Board of Audit proposed to be established in Dublin, and that the proposed Board should have full power for enforcing the transmission of the accounts and vouchers, and for surcharging in case of default, and enforcing payment of the balances justly due. And we recommend that these powers should be given to them directly, without requiring a circuitous reference of the accounts through the Lord Lieutenant and Secretary of State.

We have already recommended, with respect to the Limerick Charity Blue School, that two inhabitants of Limerick should, from time to time, be appointed as trustees in place of the Mayor and Recorder, who have ceased to act.

In connexion with Dr. Hall's School, and the Blue School, Limerick, we have stated our opinion that house property, requiring, as it must, constant vigilance and expenditure, is not a suitable investment for the funds of charities, and that the trustees should be enabled to dispose of it, and invest the proceeds upon land or head rents.

We have recommended, in connexion with the Limerick Leamy School, that the principle of exemption from legacy duty should be extended to all charities applicable in Ireland without regard to the domicile of the testator.

In connexion with Gwyn's Charitable Institution in Londonderry, we have recommended that statutable power should be given to the trustees to grant a retiring pension to the present master; and that in future appointments, provision for superannuation at a fixed age should be made, by means of a plan of insurance elsewhere suggested.

SCHOOLS VISITED OR NOTICED IN EVIDENCE.

Vide, p. 225, *infra*.

We have stated our opinion that the conduct of the former assistant master who has been appointed master, and of the principal mistress of Swords Borough School has been such as to call for their dismissal; that the duties of local superintendence have been ill-discharged, and that the management of the charity has not been judicious. We have recommended that the Act constituting the Board of Governors should be repealed; and the management of the charity transferred to the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

We have recommended that Bishop Foy's School should be removed from the neighbourhood of the city of Waterford, to the city itself, and converted into a day school, with scholarships for orphans and poor children; that the Acts of Parliament by which the school is governed should be repealed; and that the entire management of the school should be transferred to the Incorporated Society with power to effect the changes which we have suggested in the constitution of the school.

From a consideration of this class of schools, we are led to recommend that visitors and trustees should be required by statute to visit the schools at least once a-year; that the visitation should be in public and after due notice; that the results of the visitation, with the rules, orders, and decisions of the visitors should also be published in the *Dublin Gazette*, and in some newspaper circulating in the locality, and that a copy of all reports, rules, orders, and decisions of visitors and trustees, should be deposited with the Registrar of School Endowments.

OBSERVATIONS ON SOME OF THE SCHOOLS AND ENDOWMENTS REPORTED ON BY THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

1.—THE HONORABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS.

In the beginning of the 17th century, extensive forfeited estates in the province of Ulster becoming vested in the crown, King James resolved to plant them with English and Scotch settlers. The business of this plantation having been undertaken by the Corporation of London, the Irish Society was incorporated on the 29th March, 1613, as "The Society of the Governor and Assistants in London of the New Plantation in Ulster, within the realm of Ireland;" and on the 28th of the following June, a Charter was granted to the town of Coleraine. The management of the plantation became soon the subject of complaint, and the Charter was revoked by sentence of the Court of Star Chamber. In 1641, however, it was resolved in Parliament that the sentence was unlawful and unjust; and on the Restoration, a new Charter—that of Londonderry—was granted, which restored the society to their rights, and under which they act at the present day.

Vide pp. 7–8, *supra*.

Concise View of the Irish Society, p. 32.

Ibid. pp. 40, 56.

Ibid. p. 61.

Ibid. pp. xii. 62.

In 1854, the Commissioners who were appointed to inquire into the Corporation of London investigated, as a part of their duties, the history and constitution of the Irish Society. They report that it possessed considerable property in and near the towns of Londonderry and Coleraine, and add that "its revenues are at present appropriated, partly to the expenses of management, partly in grants for the municipal institutions of Londonderry, and partly in grants to various charitable and educational institutions connected with the districts" in which its property is situated; and that "the society, from the Charter, and from its own present practice and avowed principle, are mere Trustees for the purposes declared in the Charter of Incorporation."

Comms. on Corp. Lond. Rep. 1854, p. xxxii.

Ibid, p. xxxiii.

Lord Chancellor Cottenham has pronounced "these trusts to be continuing;" and that the society have "still to take care of that which is closely and intimately connected with religion, and is a part of it—the education of the inhabitants of the district:" the education to be in connexion with the Protestant religion.

Appendix, 17. Tables, vol. iii. p. 600.

The society accordingly, from its foundation, devoted a portion of its revenues to the support of schools. It appears from their returns that for the year ending 12th February, 1856, they expended the sum of £1,351 in salaries to school-

THE HON. THE IRISH SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS.

masters, £150 in exhibitions, and the sum of £333 12*s.* in repairs of Londonderry Free School.

From the constitution of the Irish Society, and in consequence of its being managed by a Board sitting in London, we cannot expect that in the management of educational trusts in Ireland it should possess the important assistance which personal observation and careful supervision can alone supply. Our inquiries have demonstrated that in order to make funds for educational purposes productive of valuable results, they must be expended with judgment and care in the support of efficient schools placed in suitable and well-selected districts and localities; that the continued efficiency of the schools should be maintained by the constant and vigilant supervision of intelligent persons interested in their prosperity and resident in the districts; by the frequent and careful inspection of competent inspectors; by a proper system of rewards and punishments—encouraging diligence and rewarding merit, both in teacher and pupils, and, when necessary, diminishing and withdrawing grants—and by the vigilant superintendence and control of a central Board, competent and well qualified, and charged with the offices of seeing that local patrons and managers, inspectors, and teachers, shall severally discharge the duties they undertake.

Appendix, p. 17.

The Irish Society has, except in the case of one school at Coleraine, not only no personal supervision, but it has taken no means to insure any adequate system of inspection of the schools which it mainly or exclusively supports. It cannot, therefore, excite surprise that the mode in which disbursements for education have been made by the Society is unsatisfactory; that the grants appear to be made without sufficient discrimination in the first instance, and without due regard afterwards to obtain the advantages they are intended to produce. The school it does superintend is in a very satisfactory state.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 520, 618, 650.

The expenditure of the society for the year 1855 was spread over upwards of ninety schools, and of this number fifty-seven received grants not exceeding £5 a-year. The schools, too, assisted by the society, are not limited even to the county of Londonderry; £66 10*s.* having been expended in the county of Donegal, and a donation of £10 is found in the county of Tyrone.

In the majority of cases, where its grants are but trifling additions to other incomes, the Society is incapacitated from exercising any influential superintendence, the schools being under other control. The money, thus spread over a large surface, becomes, in each locality, of little appreciable importance.

Appendix, p. 17.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that three distinct cases came under his observation, in each of which the Society's donation was continued to a master whose salary had been withdrawn by the National Board, on account of either his inefficiency or misconduct. Dr. Ferguson adds, "that several of the grants of the Irish Society are open to this observation; that they are conferred upon inefficient and useless schools, which either did not deserve, or did not procure any sufficient local assistance;" and that "some of the grants are made to schools held in miserable hovels, in which discipline and habits of cleanliness and order are impossible."

Ibid.

We feel that immediate steps should be taken, in order that all the funds devoted to education under the Charter of the Irish Society should assume a definite form, and be placed under a system of efficient management. With this view, we recommend that the scattered funds of the society should be secured for, and concentrated on, a limited number of efficient endowed schools, on this foundation, in the county of Londonderry.

Ibid. p. 17.

Dr. Ferguson having observed that at present the Irish Society "do not exercise any control or supervision whatever over" "the schools which participate in the benefit of the funds placed at their disposal," suggests that, as he believes, "the political necessity which gave rise to the creation of the trust has long since passed away; and as the members of the Irish Society have confessedly no beneficial interest in the funds which they distribute, the natural and sensible course would seem to be to delegate the trust to local gentlemen, who would bring to bear upon the discharge of their duties the necessary information, the community of feeling and interest, and the opportunity of constant personal inspection and supervision which are essential to its due performance." He also observes, that the Commissioners on the state of the Corporation of London have, on independent grounds, recommended the dissolution of the Irish Society, and the repeal of its Charter.

If the society shall not appoint local patrons and managers, and put the

primary schools under the proposed Board of Endowed Schools, or under the Board of National Education, we deem it to be of moment to the efficiency of the endowment, that a local board should be established, which should conduct, in accordance with the spirit of the Charter, the management of the schools supported from the funds of the society. By this means a system of inspection and supervision would be secured.

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We have elsewhere noticed the anomalous position of Foyle College in respect of endowment, as compared with that of the other Royal Schools. In King James's scheme of plantation, he designed that there should be one Free School at least in each of the six counties of Ulster. This design has been carried out in five of the counties, each of which has considerable estates devoted to educational purposes. In Londonderry, however, the county assigned to the Irish Society, no such estates are now recognised. It appears, however, that at the time of the plantation, 300 acres were allotted by a deputation of the society for a free school at that place. It also appears that, on the eastern side of the river Foyle, there are two townlands called Rossnagallagh and Gransha, now in possession of the Irish Society, and that these townlands contain 309 plantation acres, nearly the same quantity of land as that allotted for a free school. And again, the Charter of the Irish Society fixes its land to be on the western side of the Foyle, and does not account for their possession of any land on the eastern side. Under these circumstances it seems even more than probable that the townlands of Rossnagallagh and Gransha were originally allotted for a free school for this county. "But whether or not," as Dr. Ferguson observes, "these two townlands, Rossnagallagh and Gransha, are the identical 300 acres allotted to the free school, in fulfilment of a previous obligation in that behalf, the Free School of Londonderry has a strong claim against the Irish Society in this respect; and though lapse of time may have debarred all legal remedy in respect of that claim, it cannot destroy the moral and equitable claim upon the consideration of Parliament, in the event of the trust-property now administered by the Irish Society being placed under other regulations."

Vide p. 60, *supra.*

Ev. 10770.

Ibid. p. 18.

Ev. 10770.

We consider, as we have elsewhere stated, that in the event of the recommendation of the Commissioners on the Corporation of London being carried into effect, and the Irish Society dissolved, that the townlands of Rossnagallagh and Gransha should be set apart for a Royal Free School for the county of Londonderry.

Vide p. 60, *supra.*

We also recommend, if the society shall not appoint local patrons and managers, and put their primary schools under the proposed Board of Endowed Schools, or under the Board of National Education, that a Local Board should be established in the county, which should have the management of the schools supported from such other funds of the Society as may be allocated to educational purposes.

We are of opinion, that by the means we have suggested, the trust-funds of this ancient society, which are applied to educational purposes, will be rendered productive of more beneficial results.

2.—COLONEL ROBERTSON'S SCHOOLS, COUNTY OF DONEGAL.

These schools are situate in the county of Donegal, the Robertson Endowment having been devised "for or towards establishing a school" in each parish in the diocese of Raphoe. Its sum was settled by a Chancery decree, in the year 1803, at £8,584 12*s.* 3*d.*, which, with accumulation of interest, has been invested in Government stock, now producing the annual income of £437 10*s.* 8*d.* In accordance with the scheme laid down by the Master in Chancery, for the regulation of the charity, its affairs are to be conducted by a committee, consisting of the Bishop, Dean, Archdeacon, Vicar-General, and five clergymen of the diocese, with power to elect another clergyman of the diocese, on the occasion of a vacancy in their body.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 510, 524.

Ev. 11123.

The share of each parish in the endowment was fixed at £13 16*s.* 11*d.* for the salary of the schoolmaster, and £2 15*s.* 4½*d.* for the purchase of books, and for incidental expenses. It was also reported as necessary to the establishment of the charity that the clergyman of each parish should procure the purchase in fee-simple of an acre of land for the purpose of erecting a schoolhouse, and that a sum should be laid out by the Committee in building grants out of the balance of cash at that time in the agent's hands.

In consequence of the fall in the interest on public securities, the shares above mentioned have diminished. The annual income is now distributed in

Ibid.

COLONEL ROBERTSON'S SCHOOLS.

salaries of £11 1*s.* 6*d.* to the schoolmasters; the balance of the fund being applicable to the purchase of school-requisites and the repairs of the schoolhouses.

We have not found that these schools are in a satisfactory condition. The annual income appropriated to each parish from the endowment, though insufficient of itself to constitute the support of a good school, might, nevertheless, have induced other assistance, and become the nucleus around which local charity might have gathered.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 525.

The bequest, however, does not appear to serve such purposes in the parishes of Donegal. Of the thirty schools at present on this foundation, our Tables exhibit nineteen in which the salary of the master does not exceed the sum paid by the Robertson Committee; and, with four exceptions, in none of the remainder does the increase amount to £3. Among the nineteen we have referred to, are the schools in the populous parish of Kilbarron, and at the valuable living of Raphoe.

The consequences are such as we should have been led to anticipate. So small an income could not, at the present time, secure the services of efficient teachers, or place them in circumstances in which their exertions would be stimulated. Instead of this munificent endowment being made instrumental in enlarging the sphere and raising the tone of education in the diocese, it serves merely to continue the existence of schools in which the instruction, for a great part, is either limited in extent or deficient in quality, and, in few cases, the subject for unqualified approval.

Ibid. p. 524.

Dr. Ferguson, our Assistant Commissioner who inspected these schools, and has reported on their general management, observes that, "when the entire support of the master is thrown upon the endowment by the rector of the parish," "the bequest of Colonel Robertson becomes an evil rather than a benefit, as, by superseding all other support, it introduces a starveling, useless school;" and expresses his belief that, with some exceptions, "the diocese of Raphoe would have been provided with parochial schools of a better class if the endowment had never been made."

Ev. 11124, 11174.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 524.

The poverty unremoved, if not perpetuated, by the Robertson bequest is further depicted in the wretched condition of the schoolhouses, and the want of books and other arrangements for the children. The Master in Chancery's scheme fixed a sum to be expended in defraying incidental expenses; and the Rev. Mr. Fullerton, the Secretary of the Committee, stated before us in evidence, that it was "expected by the Committee that the incumbents will keep their schools in repair in each parish." However this may be, Dr. Ferguson reports that "more than one-half of the Robertson schools are unprovided with an adequate supply of books, maps, and other school-requisites; and the majority of them are held in houses in a state of disrepair; one is held in a small cabin, another in a large and dilapidated house of worship, and several of them are unprovided with any external accommodation."

Ibid. p. 525.

Another source of the unsatisfactory condition of these schools is the inefficient system of inspection to which they are subject. The removal of this defect could not, indeed, raise the Robertson Schools to a high class, whilst their resources remain so small, but it would tend in some measure to prevent their continuing in their present low state. A system of adequate inspection is of the first moment. By its means negligence and indifference are corrected, diligence is noticed and guided, and life is infused into the whole business of instruction. The Master in Chancery reported that the schools on this foundation should be subject to the visitation of visitors appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese, with the view of preserving the schools from the neglect, inattention, or want of capacity of the schoolmasters, providing for their being effectually kept according to the intent of the testator; and the master's right to receive the whole or any portion of his salary was made dependent on the number of scholars that he should appear to have in his school. In order, however, that inspection should be really effective, it must be carried out by a class of competent inspectors, who could bring to the discharge of the duty the advantage of an experience derived from an extensive observation of schools, and the constancy and vigilance with which their disengagement from other pursuits would enable them to conduct their inquiries. The inspectors of the Robertson Schools are all clergymen of the diocese, whose time must necessarily be otherwise occupied, and who are consequently precluded from inspecting with the keenness of observation, and the frequency and regularity which the business requires. "In some instances,"

says Dr. Ferguson, "the visitation is made by the rectors of adjoining parishes interchangeably;" and he adds that, "in most instances, it is but a formality to entitle the teacher to his salary, by ascertaining the number of pupils in attendance, and, he believes, of no further value." COLONEL ROBERTSON'S SCHOOLS.

To render this endowment more productive of good results we would adopt Dr. Ferguson's suggestion, and recommend that powers should be given to withhold its payment in parishes in which a certain amount of local support is unprovided; and that the shares of the income so withheld, and at present so slender, should be allowed to accumulate, until they become capable of supporting efficient schools in their respective parishes. Tables, vol. iii. p. 525.

We also recommend that the management of the endowment should be transferred from the Robertson Committee to the care of the Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools, the establishment of which is proposed in this report. The adoption of this course would be facilitated by the terms of the bequest, as Colonel Robertson did not design that the benefits of his legacy should be restricted to children of any particular religious denomination. "It is to be understood," said he, "that such as in said parishes may not be of the Established religion are, notwithstanding, to share equally in this legacy, which, it is to be hoped, will contribute to their conformation to the English Church by enlightening their understandings." By such a transference of the management the evils that now interfere with the operation of the endowment will be removed, and provision will be made for that external inspection which Dr. Ferguson has reported to be the great desideratum of this class of endowed schools. We are of opinion that by the means we have recommended the endowment can not only be rescued from its state of comparative inutility, but rendered capable of producing results commensurate with the beneficent intentions of Colonel Robertson. Ibid. p. 510. Ibid. p. 525.

3.—SCHOOLS AND ENDOWMENTS IN THE CITY OF DUBLIN.

Bertrand's Charity.

This endowment, which was created by the will of Peter Bertrand, dated the 29th June, 1801, and proved in 1807, consists of real property, the present annual value of which is estimated at the large sum of £480 14*s.* 7*d.* This is, however, subject to the payment of interest on a mortgage of £5,000, with which the charity has been burdened in order to raise money for the discharge of accumulated head rents and renewal fines. At the time of Mr. Bertrand's death the yearly rental was only £230, late currency, subject to head rent and large septennial renewal fines. Tables, vol. iii. p. 88.

This property, which, after making all proper deductions, ought, under proper management, even if its value had not increased, to have yielded a considerable overplus, available for the purposes of the charity, has not, after a lapse of half a century from the period of the testator's death, been applied towards the establishment of any school. The history of the charity is not very clearly ascertained, but sufficient evidence has, we think, been furnished to us to warrant the conclusion, that the non-establishment of the school is attributable to the delay attendant on a Chancery suit in which the charity became involved, the accumulation of renewal fines and arrears of rents by the neglect and mismanagement of a receiver appointed in that suit, and more especially to the want of adequate exertion on the part of the former Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests. We beg to refer to the extract from the report of our Assistant Commissioner, which is given in the Tables of Schools and Endowments, and concludes as follows:—"The Chancery suit in which the Commissioners were engaged has long since been determined, and the testator's property is now, and for some years past has been, under the exclusive management of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations. The peculiarities of the tenure of the property, and, in particular, the accumulation of long arrears of renewal fines, and the circumstances which occasioned the necessity of mortgaging the property to the Archbishop of Dublin for a sum of upwards of £5,000, appear to invite inquiry." Ibid. pp. 125–6.

Bethesda Orphan Girls' School, Upper Dorset-street.

Our Assistant Commissioner who visited this establishment reports that the schoolhouse, though healthily situated, and in excellent condition, is not altoge- Tables, vol. iii. p. 60.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 107.

ther suited for its intended objects. The dining-room, which is also used as a kitchen, is, he states, underground, badly lighted, and too small. The proportions of the dormitories, also, seem not to be sufficiently large for the number of boarders received. With the exception of these and some other defects pointed out by our Assistant Commissioner, as given in the extract from his report, the establishment appears to be well conducted, though room exists for improvement in the department of teaching. The school is exclusively confined to boarders belonging to the Church of England, who, at a suitable age, are either apprenticed or sent out to service, and whose subsequent career and conduct are looked after by the ladies who are Governors of the institution.

East Essex-street, Boys' School.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 62.

This school was established about the year 1718; and its funds are derived from gifts and bequests made by various members of the Eustace-street congregation, from the period when the charity was founded down to the present time. Our Assistant Commissioner who inspected this institution reports, that the condition of the premises (in building which a sum of £700 was expended out of the trust funds, on a lease for seventy-three years), is good, although the situation does not appear to be a desirable one. The expenses of the school are paid in part out of the endowment and in part out of the fees which are paid by all the pupils, a few, who are free, only excepted, and which vary in amount according as the instruction given embraces what is usually called an English education alone, or extends to classics or the higher branches of mathematics. There are none but day-pupils, and these belong to various denominations. The instruction given in the school, pursuant to the rules adopted by the trustees, is of a purely secular character; but they render it imperative on the master to afford every facility for enabling the children to receive religious instruction elsewhere than in the school, in accordance with the wishes of their parents or guardians. There is a weekly inspection by the clergyman of the Eustace-street congregation, and also by a member of the committee under whose superintendence the school is placed. Our Assistant Commissioner reports, that the instruction afforded in this, as well as in the infant school attached to it, is satisfactory; and states that this endowment presented to him one of the very few instances in which books have, almost from the foundation of the establishment, been regularly kept, showing the receipts and expenditure on account of the trust.

Ibid. p. 107.

Female Orphan House, North Circular Road.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 60.

Ibid. p. 106.

Ibid. p. 107.

The state of instruction in this school is reported by our Assistant Commissioner as being only indifferent, although in other respects he considers the establishment to be well conducted, and particularly notices "the order and cleanliness which pervade every department, and the appearance of health and cheerfulness among the children." He also points out, "as a peculiar feature of the establishment, that no servants are kept in the house, the entire domestic work being performed by the children." In consequence of the gradual diminution of the annual Parliamentary grant to this institution, the Governors have been under the necessity of diminishing the number of orphan children on the foundation. We observe, however, that in the case of this, as of many other boarding schools, considerable portions of the principal of the trust funds have been from time to time sold out, "to supply deficiencies in the general expenditure of the institution."

Ibid.

Irish Clergy Daughter's School, Kildare-place.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 66.

This valuable educational institution labours, we regret to say, under the difficulty common to it with many others, of not possessing funds adequate for the complete and satisfactory realization of the ends it seeks to attain. The annual income derived from the endowment forms but a small portion of the expenditure requisite in order to maintain an establishment where thirty-two young ladies, the daughters of the Irish Clergy of the United Church, are boarded and receive a liberal education for payments varying from £12 to £24 per annum.

The rent of £115 per annum reserved by the lease for 98 years, of premises in Kildare-place, to which the governing committee have subjected the institution, constitutes a heavy deduction from its income, and renders increasingly necessary the praiseworthy and persevering efforts made, not altogether, we regret to say, with complete success, to maintain the establishment in a suitable and efficient condition, by means of contributions from private sources. Our Assistant

Commissioner reports most favourably of the state of instruction, and of the qualifications, both intellectual and moral, of the lady under whose care and superintendence the school is placed. He remarks, however, that "the accounts of the school have been badly kept, and hitherto only annually audited." He also points out several deficiencies in the house accommodation. To remedy these would be, doubtless, impossible, in the present state of the income as now applied; but it seems to us, in this as in other cases which have come under our notice, that however natural may be the reluctance to diminish the benefits conferred by the institution, a reduction of the number of pupils would really increase its efficiency, and tend to secure its permanence.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 108.

Ibid. p. 109.

Kellett's School, Lower Dorset-street.

We think it right to call particular attention to this endowment, originally a very considerable one, but now, through want of efficient supervision, and successive acts of mismanagement, reduced almost to nothing. It affords a remarkable example of the injurious results that inevitably proceed from the defects in the powers confided to the Commissioners of Charitable Bequests, who are precluded from instituting effective inquiries respecting the trust funds of educational charities, and are consequently unable to protect funds nominally under their jurisdiction.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 88.

7 & 8 Vic. c. 97, s. 12.

Miss Kellett, by her will, bequeathed to her executors the sum of £3,000 for schools in the county of Meath, "for the cheap and good education of the children of the poor;" and the residue of her property, amounting to £1,893, for a like purpose, without restriction as to locality. The will was proved in 1812 by Mr. F. H. Holdcroft, one of the executors, who retained the sole and uncontrolled management of these funds down to his death, which happened in 1830; after which date they successively passed, in like manner, into the hands of Mrs. Holdcroft, the executor's widow; of Mr. Henry Holdcroft, his son; and of Mr. William Roscoe, of Dorsetshire, his son-in-law. The benevolent intentions of the testatrix were never carried out, for all the trustees have continued the misapplication first commenced by the executor, and which consisted in applying the entire of the trust funds, with the exception of a small sum of £131, employed in building a school-house at Carlanstown, in the county of Meath, to the establishment and support of a school in Lower Dorset-street, in the city of Dublin. The house in which this has been, until a recent period, held, was built at a cost of £1,756, and £310 more was spent in purchasing the site. The total expenses of the Dublin school do not appear to have ever exceeded £80 yearly; so that, with just and prudent care, a large surplus should have remained for educational purposes, as directed by the testatrix in her will. The executor, however, in the first instance, invested in 1820 the trust funds in city of Dublin debentures, a species of security, which, however good it may have seemed at the time, was not justified by the rules of the Court of Chancery as to investments by trustees, nor one, we think, that a public board, invested with proper powers of supervision and control, would have sanctioned. In 1851, Mr. Henry Holdcroft sold these debentures for £1,891 17*s.*; although the sum of £3,000, bequeathed to the Meath schools, ought then, if properly taken care of, to have accumulated to more than £7,000. This sum of £1,891 17*s.*, together with £138 12*s.* 7*d.* for interest, and the school site and premises in Dublin, constituted the whole of the endowment remaining at the death of Mr. H. Holdcroft, which occurred in 1852. These funds then passed into the hands of Mr. Roscoe, who, for his own advantage, invested them to the extent of £2,000, in shares of a speculative mining company, called the Anglo-Californian, which, after gradually declining, became utterly valueless, and in 1856 the company was finally dissolved. Mr. Roscoe fully admits his liability to replace the moneys thus squandered; but his circumstances appear, by the Report of the secretary of the Bequest Board, to be such as to preclude the hope of his being able to do any thing effectual. The only remaining portion of this endowment, originally so considerable, consists of school premises in Dublin and Meath, and the residence built for the master in Dublin, which last might, it is estimated, yield a profit of about £14 per annum. The school in Dorset-street has been closed since May, 1855, having been injured by fire; and though put into repair, has not been since re-opened, for want of funds.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 123–5.

Ibid.

Knight's Endowed School, Patrick's Close.

The endowment of this school consists of an annual sum of £55 7*s.* 8*d.* sterling, arising out of land, and was created by the grant of James Knight in the year

Tables, vol. iii. p. 70.

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Tables, vol. iii. p. 111.
Com. Educ. Rep. 1807–12, p. 297.
Tables, vol. iii. p. 111.

1725. But the school itself, although endowed so long ago, has only been in operation since 1819. This delay of nearly a century in establishing it is, as our Assistant Commissioner reports, "ascribed by the Governors to litigation." The endowment in question was noticed by the Commissioners of 1807–12 in their report. They stated "that a long and expensive suit for the recovery of this charity was instituted, and a decree in its favour given about the year 1780. The rentcharge, however, is not now paid, or any school kept on the foundation." Our Assistant Commissioner observes—"The earliest entry in the Minute Book of the Governors (with which I was furnished) is dated the 14th April, 1814, and thereby it was 'ordered, that the Dean be empowered to look out for a proper schoolhouse in the Little Close, pursuant to the deed executed by Mr. Knight for that purpose.' The Governors certainly appear to have taken ample time for deliberation before they arrived at this mature resolution." He reports, however, favourably of the state of instruction in this school. The number of pupils on the roll, when inspected, was 42, being all day pupils; of these 36 were members of the United Church, and the remainder Protestant Dissenters of various denominations. Fifteen were free pupils; the rest paid £1 10*s.* per annum for their schooling.

National SS. Michael and John's Boys' and Girls' Day Schools, Essex-street West.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 62, 107.

The state of instruction in the boys' school is stated by our Assistant Commissioner as being satisfactory; that in the girls' school, "highly creditable, owing, no doubt, to the exertions and ability of the assistant mistress." The management of the endowment as regards the accounts is unsatisfactory for many reasons which are stated in the extract given in the Tables. In this, too, as in the case of many other endowments of small amount, the principal of the trust fund has been from time to time encroached on, to meet the temporary exigencies of the school. The inadequacy of the funds appears also in the condition of the school premises, which seems to be very bad.

National St. Catherine's Boys' School, Meath-street.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 66.
Ibid. p. 109.

Although the annual income attached to this school is considerable, the state of education in it is reported as not being satisfactory. With respect to the management of the endowment, also, we think it right to refer to the extract given in the tables, from the report of our Assistant Commissioner, which indicates the double fault, of a confusion of the school endowment with funds devoted to other purposes, and the absence of any records by which the particulars of the former could be ascertained.

National Ragged Boys' and Girls' Schools, Park-street, West.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 68, 111.

The number of the pupils on the rolls of these schools is very considerable, but as is usually the case in those of the same class, the average yearly attendance is greatly less. In his reports, extracts from which will be found in the Tables, our Assistant Commissioner has pointed out the serious disadvantages, as regards the rooms and school requisites, under which these schools labour. Nevertheless, he considers that, having regard to these deficiencies, "the proficiency displayed in the boys' school must be regarded as creditable to the teachers and pupils;" and with reference to the girls' school, the present state of instruction in which is not so satisfactory, he observes, that the mistress is "an efficient teacher," and expresses his conviction, that under ordinary circumstances "the school in her hands would speedily and materially improve." He remarks, however, that the amount of time devoted to the general education of the girls is too limited.

Presbyterian Boys' School, Meetinghouse-lane, Mary's Abbey.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 68, 109.

The endowments of this school are small, but it presents a remarkable example of a well-conducted day-school. It is, to a considerable extent, self-supporting, and affords to all the pupils a good English education, combined with classical instruction for those who desire it. Instruction is also given in book-keeping and mensuration. For those who learn classics, the amount paid is £4 per annum; for others, from thirty to forty shillings; out of which fees the master maintains himself and pays an assistant who receives a yearly salary of £50. The answering of the pupils in English history, geography, grammar, and Latin, is reported to have been of a superior character. The school is in connexion with Mary's Abbey Presbyterian Church, and the pupils are chiefly, though not

exclusively, Protestants of various denominations. It is now in the enjoyment of an annuity of £4 Irish, bequeathed to it by Mr. Joseph Leeson so far back as the year 1741, and also of £2 11*s.* 8*d.*, arising from another bequest of about £80. After having been regularly received down to the year 1843, further payment of the former annuity was refused by Lord Milltown, the representative of the testator, who put the committee of the school on proof of their claim. This they were unable to do, until our Assistant Commissioner suggested that it might probably be founded on Mr. Leeson's will; a supposition which, on inquiries made by him, proved to be correct. The inability of the natural protectors of this endowment to maintain its validity when unjustly disputed, proceeded from their not having any record of the will, which was its foundation; and the circumstances of the case illustrate, we think, the importance of having a central and public depository of such documents; and no less that of a vigilant supervision and forethought on the part of those who are locally intrusted with the care of each endowment.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 109.

Presbyterian Boys' School, Upper Ormond-quay.

This school enjoys from endowments in land and personalty an annual income of £77; nevertheless the state of instruction does not appear to be satisfactory, and the school premises are reported by our Assistant Commissioner as being "in every respect unsuitable for a school." He observes, "There is no schoolhouse. The school is held in a room, or, more properly speaking, a vault, underneath Ormond-quay Presbyterian Church. The situation of this room is most objectionable; it lies below the level of the street, and presents a gloomy, dungeon-like aspect."

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 68, 110.

Protestant Orphan Society's Boarding School, Percy-place.

The endowments stated in the Tables, which brought the Dublin Protestant Orphan Society within the jurisdiction of our Commission, form but a small portion of its considerable income, chiefly derived from voluntary subscriptions. But though the permanent resources of this institution are not great, their gradual increase presents an example of a progressive augmentation which would probably take place in other cases if a similar confidence in the management existed. The income derived from all sources is mainly expended in the support of Protestant orphans, who have no Protestant relatives able, or if able, willing to provide for them. They are placed by the Society under the care of respectable families of the same persuasion, residing in country parishes, in the county of Wicklow, within a convenient distance of some scriptural school, and of the parish church. With these they remain, subject to the superintendence of the parochial clergyman, and the systematic inspection of the Committee, until they reach the age of twelve or thirteen years. In the year 1856, it appears from a printed circular furnished to us by the Society, that there were four hundred orphans then provided for in this manner. Children, on reaching the above-mentioned age, are directly apprenticed or are transferred to the Society's boarding school, in St. Peter's parish, Percy-place, county of Dublin, for a short period, until apprenticed or put out to service, and where it is intended they should receive a more extended education. While, however, there is every reason to believe that the system pursued by the Society with reference to the younger children is attended with eminent success, and that the kind of domestic life thus afforded to them fosters their religious and moral education, without interfering with their intellectual training, we are obliged to state that the results of our Assistant Commissioner's inspection of the Society's boarding school appear to be in marked contrast with those we have just described as flowing from the adoption of the above plan. The report given to us by our Assistant Commissioner who inspected the Percy-place establishment is unfavourable, both as regards the quality of the instruction afforded, and the general condition of the establishment. The dormitories are unsatisfactory and too crowded. The attention of the girls is not sufficiently directed to the attainment of knowledge and mental discipline, and the instruction afforded both to them and to the boys appears to be of an inferior quality.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 28, 62, 107.

Vide p. 175, *infra*.

Ibid. p. 45.

St. Patrick's Grammar School, Stephen's-green, West.

The origin of this institution is to be found in a charter of Philip and Mary, which, among other things, enjoined the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St. Patrick, Dublin, "to have and maintain one fit and proper school-

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 86, 122.

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master, and one fit and proper under-master to keep a Grammar School, and to teach and instruct in grammar all who come to the same." In conformity with this injunction, a school was established, and originally, it seems, held on the cathedral premises, the master receiving £20, late currency, and his assistant £10 per annum. These sums have been consolidated, and both are now received by the head master, who derives no other benefit from the endowment, and maintains the school as, a private academical establishment. He does not receive, nor is he, it seems, expected to receive, any free pupils; and our Assistant Commissioner reports, that "the office is a sinecure involving no duties that he could discover." With reference to this failure to carry out the intention of the founders, he observes as follows:—"If, as may be inferred, it was the intention of the charter that a Grammar School should be established and supported out of the cathedral fund, at which gratuitous education should be given to all who chose to apply for same, then it is clear that the Dean and Chapter have not fulfilled that intention, for no such school is in existence. It cannot be said that by paying £30, Irish, per annum, to Mr. Dundas, they obey the charter, which enjoins them 'to have and maintain one fit and proper schoolmaster, and one fit and proper under-master, to keep a Grammar School, and to teach and instruct in grammar, all who come to the same.' If a mandamus were applied for from the Queen's Bench to enforce the provisions of the charter, a return from the Dean and Chapter stating the way in which at present they discharge the Royal injunction, would not, I apprehend, be held good. The Dean and Chapter, it appears to me, should either establish the endowment on a different footing, conformably to the intentions of the founders, or seek in some legitimate way to get rid of the obligation imposed by the charter. In connexion with the subject of this school, it may not be amiss to observe, that the Cathedral of St. Patrick was originally a collegiate church, with the power of granting degrees, which seems to have been claimed so recently as the time of Dean Swift."

Tables, vol. iii. p. 122.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF DUBLIN.

The Parochial Schools in the City of Dublin.

These form a numerous class, which, in several respects, require to be considered apart from the other schools in the city of Dublin. The results of the inquiries of our Assistant Commissioner who inspected them are set forth very fully in the extracts given from his reports in the Tables of Schools and Endowments; but we think it advisable to submit some general observations on this head, and to notice, shortly, a few of the endowments which strongly illustrate these views, or, for other reasons, require particular mention. Our Assistant Commissioner, Dr. M'Blain, has recorded the results of his inspection of various parish schools throughout Ireland in the following observations, which are generally very applicable to those situate in the city of Dublin which came under his inspection. He observes:—

Appendix, p. 8.

"The efficiency of these establishments appeared to me to depend mainly on two causes—

"First, the appointment of a qualified teacher.

"Second, the superintendence of the local clergyman.

"To secure the services of a good teacher a suitable salary must be provided; in many parishes this has not been done, and the result has been that the school is placed in the hands of an incompetent or inferior master. This evil will continue until the teacher is adequately remunerated, as it is quite idle to expect that the miserable stipend, from which many unfortunate schoolmasters throughout the country now draw their scanty subsistence, will ever attract any other than a very inferior class of teachers.

"Here, therefore, the desideratum is money.

"The next important circumstance which determines the efficiency of these schools, is referable to the superintendence of the local clergy. Generally speaking, I think it will be found to be true, that the usefulness of a parochial school, *cæteris paribus*, varies in proportion to the interest shown by the local clergy in its welfare. It is impossible to over-rate the moral influence, not merely over the pupils, but as regards the teachers themselves, which is exercised by the conscientious clergyman, whose frequent presence in the school-room attests his sense of the vitally important work in which they are engaged. It has been truly said, that a school to be good must have a friend: the best, and in many cases the only friend of the parochial school, is the parochial minister.

"He best discharges his duty whose examinations embrace the secular as well as the religious instruction of the pupils.

"I attach the more value to the labours of the clergyman in reference to this class of schools, inasmuch as they are not subjected otherwise to any adequate supervision.

"The majority of them are, no doubt, in connexion with the Church Education Society, and subject to the annual inspection of their officers; but the hurried yearly visits paid to the schools by these gentlemen, however conscientious or indefatigable in the performance of their duties they may be, cannot, I fear, be regarded as productive of any very beneficial results.

"Many of the parochial schools are very badly supplied with school furniture, books, and other school requisites; and, of course, wherever this is the case, the efficiency of the school will be more or less affected."

He also refers to a special class of schools, namely, the Charity Boarding Schools in Dublin, which include some of the parochial class, in these words:— Appendix, p. 11.

"As my labours were much conversant with the metropolitan district, my attention was frequently directed to the parochial and other small charity boarding establishments in Dublin. The general impression produced on my mind after visiting them was unfavourable to their continuance in their present form. Children brought up in these schools are not likely to acquire that self-reliance and experience of the world which are so necessary to fit them for the struggles of afterlife, and, therefore, I think that those parishes have acted wisely, which, wherever it was practicable, have broken up their boarding establishments, and made some other provision for the support of their orphans and destitute children. The plan adopted for this purpose has been (in conformity with the practice of the Protestant Orphan Society) to place out the children in the houses of farmers and nurses of good character, residing in country districts, and in the vicinity of some parochial or other poor school. This plan, while it avoids the evils incidental to the boarding-school system, is also found to be more economical in practice, so that the same amount of funds will, in this way, provide for a greater number of children than if they were congregated together in one establishment. The Protestant Orphan Society is the great agency for placing out the children of Protestant parents, and with the ample safeguards devised by that Society for securing the health and comforts of the children under their care, it does seem that this arrangement is more beneficial than the old boarding-school system. Several Roman Catholic charitable bodies have, I observe, also followed this mode of providing for their orphans. I should add that all the clergymen to whom I spoke on the subject, expressed opinions unfavourable to the continuance of this class of schools."

We shall revert to the topics thus suggested in our notices of individual parish schools, but we may add, in confirmation of our Assistant Commissioner's views on the point last referred to, that the extreme difficulty, generally amounting to an impossibility, of securing to children, and especially to those of the poorer classes, when educated in boarding houses, those domestic influences which contribute so powerfully to the well-being and, using the term in its largest sense, to the education of the young, constitutes an additional and very powerful reason for the conversion of these establishments into day-schools, and the adoption of the mode of providing for orphans which has been successfully adopted by the Protestant Orphan Society. This, it will have been observed, essentially consists in placing them in families of their own religious persuasion, residing in localities where the children can attend day-schools approved of by their parents or guardians, and also enjoy the spiritual instruction and care of the clergy of the same denomination. *Vide* p. 173, *supra*.

We are, therefore, of opinion that the trustees of all boarding-schools should be enabled to discontinue the boarding department, and to employ the endowment in the support of the pupils as residents in families specially selected to take charge of them on the principle above stated.

The observations which we have already made and quoted in that part of our Report which refers to schools in connexion with the Church Education Society, generally apply to the parochial schools. But this is not always the case, for some of those in the city of Dublin are unconnected with any religious society, being solely under the supervision and control of committees, of which the local clergy are *ex officio* members. The amount of attention and superintendence given by the clergy to schools thus circumstanced is very *Vide* p. 134, *supra*.

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28 Hen. VIII. c. 15, s. 9.

Com. Ir. Ed. Rep., 1825, p. 37.

Vide, p. 137, *supra*.

considerable. Their exertions are not, however, altogether voluntary, being partly in discharge of the obligation imposed on them, of "keeping, or causing to be kept, a school for to learn English."

We have already stated our indisposition to recommend any interference in the management of schools having endowments too small to insure their independent existence; and to this class the parochial schools in the city of Dublin, generally speaking, belong. The reports of our Assistant Commissioner indicate that their frequent inefficiency is, in part, attributable to the want of adequate supervision and more frequent examinations. A large number of the houses belonging to these, as, indeed, to many other schools in the city of Dublin and other large towns, are either in bad repair, ill-placed, defective in point of ventilation, warming, and lighting, or otherwise unsuitable for school purposes; and very generally no play-ground, or a very inadequate one, is attached to them.

The most prominent evil in the management of the Dublin parochial schools is the sale, for the purpose of meeting current expenses, of trust funds invested in stock. The power to sell stock should undoubtedly exist, but ought to be placed under restrictions calculated to insure its prudent exercise. With regard to the parish schools in Dublin, a very simple remedy could be applied, by having all the trust funds invested in the name of the Incorporated Society, jointly with the local trustees. By this means the trustees would be able to draw the dividends, but could not sell the principal without the consent of the Incorporated Society.

St. Andrew's Parochial Boys' and Girls' Schools.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 72, 112.

These which were formerly boarding are now day schools. The reasons for the change thus made by the Governors are stated in the extract given in the Tables from the report of our Assistant Commissioner. He also observes that "the early history and transactions of the school are enveloped in considerable obscurity, owing to the loss or destruction of all the old books of account and minute-books of the Governors." This was occasioned by a former treasurer having been permitted to keep possession of them, a circumstance indicating that absence of an adequate control and supervision which, we regret to say, diminishes the efficiency of so many endowments. The state of instruction in the boys' school is reported to be satisfactory, that in the girls', unsatisfactory. The number of children on the roll in the former was sixty-five, of whom forty belonged to the United Church, and twenty-five to the Roman Catholic persuasion; in the latter there were seventy pupils, an equal proportion of them belonging to each of the above religious denominations.

St. Audoen's Parochial School.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 72, 114.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that the situation of this school, between two grave-yards, is bad and unhealthy. This is the more to be regretted, as a sum of £357 was, in 1847, expended upon building and furnishing the school-house. The instruction given here is stated to be satisfactory. The regulations adopted by the governing body in this, as in some other of the parochial schools, expressly exclude all children but those of the United Church. The school is, however, chiefly remarkable as affording an example of the absence of a proper system of keeping the accounts, and of considerable mismanagement of the endowments. These which were derived from successive bequests and donations, commencing in 1748, and amounting to the sum of £1,624 16*s.* 3*d.*, are now reduced to that of £571 13*s.*, Government stock. Allowing for the sum mentioned above as having been expended in building, the deficit appears to have arisen partly from an unjustifiable loan, and partly from causes the nature of which does not appear to be explained by the books belonging to the trust. The accounts have confounded the funds left for general school purposes, with a bequest appropriated to apprenticing children, the latter having been "mixed up with the other trust-funds, and its identity thus irrecoverably lost."

St. Bridget's Parochial Boarding School.

St. Bridget's Parochial Boys' and Girls' Schools.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 74, 115.

The state of the endowments connected with these schools is unsatisfactory. It appears from the report of our Assistant Commissioner, that the amount

of bequests made to the boarding school prior to the year 1828 reached the sum of £4,746 12*s.* 2*d.*, but that out of this "the only available funds" remaining about that period consisted of "the moiety of a sum of £184 11*s.* 9*d.*, Government stock, and a sum of £528 18*s.* 5½*d.*, lent by the Governors to the Parish of St. Bridget." There are no account books showing how or when these trust funds were thus expended, though it may be presumed that they were employed in keeping up the boarding school, the day schools not having been established until after 1828. Moreover, the above remaining funds and those since acquired, the total income arising from which is now a sum of £29 3*s.* 1*d.* only, have been mixed up with those belonging to the Parochial Alms' House, a mode of proceeding which is not only calculated to produce confusion, but even appears, as our Assistant Commissioner has pointed out, to have led to the misapplication of the school funds. The insufficiency of the funds for the support of the boarding school may be inferred from the expenditure of the principal; since the establishment of the day schools the resources of the former appear to have been still further reduced, in order to keep up the latter. The number of boarders is now nine in place of twenty-four, the original number. Our Assistant Commissioner remarks on this head—"I learned that it has long been in contemplation to abolish the boarding-school altogether, and devote the entire funds to the support of the daily schools, an operation which, however abstractedly beneficial, could scarcely be carried into effect without the approval of the Court of Chancery." The project thus entertained by the Governors seems in the present case—supposing legal steps to be taken for its execution—to be justified by the existing state of the endowment, and especially by that of the buildings of the boarding school, the situation and condition of which are reported to us as very bad, the house being "built over an ancient graveyard, in a close, crowded, and dirty locality, and present a melancholy aspect of dilapidation and decay." The boarders, who are all boys, receive their education in the daily male school of the parish. Notwithstanding the assistance which the parochial school derives from the funds properly belonging to the boarding school, its state as regards instruction is not satisfactory, and the situation of the house in which it is held is also unhealthy, being close to a graveyard. The instruction given in the girls' school is reported as satisfactory, but the salaries of the teacher and assistant fall below even the low rate of salaries commonly given to teachers. Our Assistant Commissioner remarks, "How it can be expected that a school will prosper where the teachers are rewarded with £15 and £10 respectively, is more than I can conceive."

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 74, 116.

Ibid.

St. Catherine's Parochial Boys', Girls', and Infants' Schools.

The situation of the schoolhouse in which these are held is reported to be bad, and its condition only tolerable. The endowment is more considerable than those belonging to the generality of parochial schools, yielding an annual income of £72 3*s.* 4*d.* from land, and £76 4*s.* from personalty. Our Assistant Commissioner points out several defects, which are, we regret to say, very generally to be found in this class of schools, especially when placed in large cities. Among these are the absence of a play-ground, and, consequently, "the long uninterrupted confinement" often, as here, in "rooms the reverse of salubrious." He also points out the absence of a school library, and of rewards which "ought to be given at the annual examinations for good answering and good conduct." The state of instruction in the boys' and infants' schools is reported as being satisfactory, but that in the girls' school is not so.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 74, 116.

St. George's Parochial Boys', Girls', and Infants' Schools.

The state of instruction in the boys' school does not seem to be satisfactory. In addition to the absence of a play-ground, our Assistant Commissioner notices, as a defect in this school, the want of "proper supervision, it being left almost exclusively under the control of the master." The want of such superintendence shows itself in the "neglected aspect" of the school-room, and in the absence of a proper degree of system in the management of the school.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 74–76, 116.

St. John's Parochial Boys', Girls', and Infants' Schools.

Our Assistant Commissioner reports that the state of instruction in the boys' school is unsatisfactory, and in the girls' school not satisfactory; but that in both cases the present teachers had been too recently appointed to be held accountable

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 76, 117–8.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF DUBLIN.

for this at the time when he visited them. Large sums of money have, in this, and some other cases of parochial schools, been expended upon the premises, although the situation is undesirable as regards the health of the children. The present school, however, furnishes one of the few instances, where the play-ground attached to it is reported as being sufficient. There was formerly a boarding school for girls, but the then rector and the other Governors being, as our Assistant Commissioner states, "of opinion that the boarding school system did not work well, a resolution was passed on the 3rd of November, 1846, that the number of boarders should be diminished, and the daily schools be increased. That resolution was acted on; and it appears that on the 2nd of February, 1847, the number of boarders was reduced to four, and in 1848 the boarding-school was entirely broken up."

St. Mary's Parochial Boarding Boys' and Girls' Schools.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 78, 119.

The state of instruction in these schools is reported to be satisfactory; but we regret to say that the history of the management of the endowment is quite the reverse, and presents defects which are too common in this class of schools, and especially frequent in relation to boarding-schools. The total number of the boarders on the foundation is now fourteen, of whom ten are boys, and four girls. Various large sums have been, from time to time, withdrawn from the principal of the trust-funds, in ways, and for objects, which cannot be now ascertained, in consequence of the account books, and minutes of the Governors' proceedings having been carried off by a former schoolmaster, in whose power they seem to have been left. The expenditure may, probably, have been made in order to maintain the desired number of boarders, or to keep in repair the school premises. For this last purpose a sum of £600, Government Stock, was sold out in 1848, and expended on the school-house, although its situation, as our Assistant Commissioner states, is not healthy. The bequest of £500, late currency, made by the will of Mary Pennefather, dated 19th May, 1768, was directed by her to be laid out "at interest, or in the purchase of a freehold estate," the annual proceeds only of these trust-funds to be applied to the support of the charity children of the parish of St. Mary. Our Assistant Commissioner observes, that "this fund has long since totally disappeared," although it "ought, under the express trusts of the will, to be still in existence, and applicable to the maintenance of the schools." He was unable, by careful inquiry from the master and local clergy, to ascertain what had become of the money.

St. Michael's Parochial Boys' and Girls' Schools.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 80, 120.

We find here, also, the large sum of £633 9*s.* 3*d.* invested, so recently as 1845, in erecting, in the parish churchyard, a new schoolhouse, the situation of which has, for this reason, been reported to us as being unhealthy, though its state of repair is good. The defect arising from this cause is not compensated by the existence of a play-ground, there being none attached to this school. The state of instruction in the boys' school is reported by our Assistant Commissioner as satisfactory, while that in the girls' is stated by him to be very much so. The attendance also in the latter is considerably larger than in the former. These results arise, no doubt, in a considerable degree, from the exertions of the female teacher, who, for the long period of nearly forty years, has presided over this school; but, we think, they may also, in part, be attributable to the circumstance, that the girls' department is more frequently visited by the parish clergyman than the boys', and that in the former stated examinations are annually held under the superintendence of the clergy, at which rewards are given, in books, for diligence and good answering, whereas the boys' school enjoys no such benefits.

St. Paul's Parochial Boys' School.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 80, 120.

We refer to this school in order to call attention to a matter which is, we think, of much importance in education, we mean the study of history. Our Assistant Commissioner, in his report, remarks as follows:—"I have observed in this, and a great many other parish schools in Dublin, a singular ignorance displayed by the boys respecting the most ordinary events of English history. This branch of education appears to be much neglected in general, and it does seem strange to find boys at these schools who answer you satisfactorily in

arithmetic, geography, or grammar, and yet have never heard of Runnymede, Bannockburn, Cressy, or Poictiers."

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF DUBLIN.

St. Peter's Parochial Boarding and Day Boys' and Girls' Schools.

The state of instruction in these schools is reported by our Assistant Commissioner to be satisfactory; but the management of the endowment appears to have been very much the reverse, indicating a disposition to maintain a boarding establishment larger than was justified by the amount of the annual income, and a consequent practice of appropriating the principal moneys of the charity to the payment of its current expenses, accompanied, as we have with regret been obliged to remark elsewhere, by the absence of any sufficient accounts capable of explaining the time or mode of the expenditure thus made. The total income now derived from personal property is £28 10*s.* but our Assistant Commissioner observes, that "at some prior period of their history, the schools undoubtedly possessed a large amount of funded property, the entire of which has been from time to time, according to the exigencies of the moment, sold out and expended on current disbursements." He has reported the particulars of the funds, so far as they can now be ascertained, and these will be found in the extract from his Report given in the Tables of Schools and Endowments.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 82, 121.

St. Thomas's Parochial Girls' School.

We refer to this school as illustrating the value of constant inspection, and the stimulus which it gives both to teachers and pupils. Our Assistant Commissioner states in his report as follows:—"The reading of the girls was very good. Lady Harberton, during my visit, examined the entire school in geography, Scripture, and arithmetic. The answering, generally, was very superior. The advanced state of instruction in the school is, no doubt, attributable to the exertions of Lady Harberton who attends the school every day, and personally teaches for two hours. Along with great zeal and energy, her ladyship combines powers of teaching of a high order, and her influence over the pupils was remarkable. I was much pleased with the school."

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 82, 122.

While the situation and condition of the schoolhouse are good, the sewerage and drainage are reported as being very defective.

4.—OTHER SCHOOLS AND ENDOWMENTS.

Arklow Incorporated Society's Boys' Day-school, County of Wicklow.

We have not met with any instances by which the fatal effects and worse than uselessness of an incapable administration of educational charities are more clearly proved than by the history of this endowment, previous to its being transferred to the Incorporated Society in 1844. We therefore beg to call particular attention to the essential facts of the case, as stated in the extract from the report of our Assistant Commissioner, which indicates very clearly both the causes and the results of this deplorable instance of neglect and mismanagement. We here find a school whose endowment, though dating from the year 1812, was, nevertheless, not brought into operation for a period of more than thirty years (1844); and a charitable foundation which, originally consisting of property worth upwards of £200 per annum, and apparently capable of increase, under careful and active management, has been suffered to be permanently reduced to about one-fourth of that value; while instead of "the several thousand pounds, which should have been received out of the estate in the interval between 1812 and 1844, yet in point of fact, after payment of law-costs and other expenses, the Incorporated Society did not receive quite £300," when in the latter year the endowment was handed over to them by the Board of Charitable Donations and Bequests. Instances occur in the Tables, too frequently of losses which may be chiefly attributed to the defective state of the law, and the delays and expenses of Chancery management; the present case, however, though incidentally illustrating these defects, must be regarded as strongly inculpating the late Board of Commissioners of Donations and Bequests, who undertook proceedings for the protection of the endowment. Two considerations place this beyond a doubt: one, that, "no account was returned of the income of the property, nor any steps taken to preserve it from deterioration," for eighteen years, ending in 1836; the other, that the litigation was carried on from 1814, to 1844; a delay which, it can hardly be doubted, is mainly attribut-

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 252, 263.
Vide p. 95, *supra*.

Observations on Schools and Endowments.

able to the Commissioners, when we find that in the suit instituted by themselves, "only one account had been passed by the receiver," from 1815, the year in which he had been appointed, down to 1836; and that during this interval "squatters were allowed to occupy portions of the premises, and hold the same free of rent, until from lapse of time it became impossible to disturb them." In addition to the loss permanently suffered by the property in this and other ways—amounting, as above stated, to three-fourths of the whole annual value of the estate—the prolongation of litigation occasioned the incurring of a double set of costs, one by the Commissioners of Charitable Bequests, and the other by the Incorporated Society, who were the objects of the testatrix's bounty. With reference to the former, it is worthy of remark, that "the Attorney-General gave his opinion that the solicitor of the Commissioners was highly culpable for the neglect manifested towards the charity, and was amenable at law for the consequences;" and that the case having been thereupon submitted to the arbitration of the Solicitor-General, he, in 1843, "made an award against the solicitor, and directed him to pay in discharge of his liability the sum of £600, to the Commissioners as trustees for the Incorporated Society." The costs incurred by the Incorporated Society in relation to the endowment amounted to a large sum, and were satisfied by the sale of £649 10*s.*, 3 per cent. consols; leaving for the benefit of the charity the residue of the sum of £869 15*s.* stock, which, together with the remnant of the real estate, constituted the whole of the property handed over by the former Board of Charitable Donations and Bequests, when, in the year 1844, they, in obedience to the decree of the Lord Chancellor, resigned the trust which they had so long and so entirely neglected.

Ballintoy School, County of Antrim.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 418.

This school exhibits a complication of those evils which are very generally to be found in schools supported out of private endowments, too small of themselves to maintain efficiency, and unaided by the contributions and local efforts of the resident gentry and clergy. Its sole means of support is derived from the endowment, consisting of a rent-charge of £13 16*s.* 11*d.* sterling, created by will, and which is paid to the schoolmaster, who also has the use of the house and half an acre of land, not secured by any deed, but presumed to have been granted. We beg to call attention to the extract given in the Tables of Schools and Endowments, from the report of our Assistant Commissioner, who describes this school as "a disgrace to civilized society." "It is," he observes, "wholly without superintendence of any kind. None of the clergymen of the district visit it. There is no supply of books or regular course of instruction. The attendance is very small; and it is so much lost time to those who do attend." The schoolhouse was built out of the accumulations of the rent-charge, and was originally an extremely substantial and commodious building, but our Assistant Commissioner found it "almost roofless." In addition to the evils arising from the dilapidated state of the premises, and the absence of any assistance in the way of books, the master himself is reported as being "unfit for his situation physically," owing to his suffering from asthma, and as not having had "an education for the office, being educated for the sea, and placed as a schoolmaster because unable to follow a more active pursuit." This state of things appears to arise partly from the circumstance, that the master's appointment is intrusted to the entire body of the parishioners in vestry assembled, thus causing an absence of responsibility, and a liability to be influenced by canvassing; but the absence of local interest and of periodical inspection would, we think, even without this cause, produce results nearly, if not altogether, such as those described. They are the more to be regretted, as there appears to be no other school in the district, or on the estate.

Burke's Scholarship; Enniskillen Royal Free School, County of Fermanagh.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 338, 344.

This endowment, created in 1818 under the will of the Rev. William Burke, is a scholarship of £20 a year for certain Protestants educated at Enniskillen School, on their entrance into Trinity College. It has been in operation since 1833.

Cahirconlish, Kilfinane, Kishequirk, and Lisnagry Schools, County of Limerick.

The above four schools present one feature in common, which, from its importance, and we regret also to say, the frequency of its occurrence, merits particular

notice. The circumstance we refer to is, that, notwithstanding the grant of public money clearly proved to have been expressly made, on condition that the site should be duly secured for school purposes, no deed evidencing the same can now be discovered, and, in all probability, none was ever executed. The results of our Assistant Commissioner's inquiries into each of these cases are stated in the extracts given in the Tables of Schools and Endowments. In the first two, no evidence could be obtained to show that the deed which, from the register of the Lord Lieutenant's School Fund, appears to have been prepared and sent, was ever executed by any person; in the third, it seems that it was not executed by the landlord; and in the fourth, it appears doubtful whether the intended grantor had power to grant the site in perpetuity. We are of opinion that, in these and other similar cases, steps should immediately be taken by the Commissioners of Education for procuring the completion of grants of the school-sites, pursuant to the original agreements, on the faith of which the public money was granted.

Callan and Knocktopher, Endowments for Free Schools in the County of Kilkenny.

The origin of these endowments was the same, as was also the cause of their being lost. Both consisted of portions of common lands enclosed by an Act of Parliament—the 10 Geo. IV. cap. 27, secs. 28 and 29,—and set apart by it for the support of free schools, the one in Callan, and the other in Knocktopher. As regards the former, no steps appear to have been taken to carry out the provisions of the Act; and in the latter case, the only thing done was the keeping up the number of trustees. The result has been, the total loss to the schools of the allotted portions, which have been gradually encroached on and appropriated; and this can, we believe, be only accounted for by the culpable neglect of the original trustees, who, though gentlemen occupying elevated positions in society, seem to have taken no efficient measures for the protection of the trust committed to their charge.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 146.

We are of opinion that the Commissioners of Education should inquire into the facts of these cases, with a view to ascertain whether the trustees are not legally responsible for the loss that has occurred.

Carrickmacross Grammar School, County of Monaghan; Kilkenny Grammar School.

We have already noticed these schools amongst the Grammar Schools under the Commissioners of Education; we now desire to call particular attention to them, as furnishing very remarkable illustrations of two views, to the general ignorance or neglect of which we must attribute the comparative inutility and decline of so many educational endowments. Of these, the first is, the extreme importance of periodical visitation, and frequent and regular inspection; the second, the impossibility of securing these objects, by the appointment of persons who fill dignified official positions, and whose time is primarily, and often entirely, occupied by the duties incidental to their peculiar functions. The great similarity of the two endowments above mentioned, with regard to their statutes of foundation, to the long and complete neglect of the duty of visitation imposed by these, and the consequences of such neglect, induce us to place them together. In the case of the Kilkenny Grammar School, the duty of making an annual visitation is imposed by the foundation statutes on the Bishop of Ossory, and the Provost of Trinity College. Its performance has, however, been long disregarded, and the result has been, that the observance of the rules of the founder as to the management of the school has not been enforced. The evil effects of this omission appear, particularly in the unsatisfactory state of instruction, as regards the English course, attention to which was especially enjoined by the founder. Similar deficiencies appear in the management of the Carrickmacross Grammar School, the duty of visiting which was confided to the Lord Primate, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dublin, the Bishop of Clogher, and the Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, or any two of them. The admission of free pupils is left altogether to the discretion of the master, although it appears to be at least doubtful, as our Assistant Commissioner observes, whether the master can require payment from the day scholars, being natives of the barony of Farney. The remedy which we propose for preventing the future occurrence of such neglect is, to empower *ex officio* trustees to appoint permanent deputies, who should be required to discharge all the duties devolving on the visitors.

Vide pp. 109, 112, *supra*.
Tables, vol. iii. pp. 142, 624.

Vide p. 190, *infra*.

OBSERVATIONS ON SCHOOLS AND ENDOWMENTS.

Castlebar, Endowment for a Classical School, County of Mayo.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 708.

The history of the endowment of this school, clearly proved to have been in existence in 1786, but now totally lost, illustrates in a remarkable manner the risks to which educational funds—especially when small in amount—are now exposed, owing to the absence of a proper system of registration and an efficient supervision. The facts of the case are fully stated in the extract from the report of our Assistant Commissioner given in the Tables of Schools and Endowments, and therefore we need not repeat them here. They also tend to illustrate the truth, to which we have already had occasion to refer, that the committal of such trusts to persons holding an elevated position in society does not of itself afford a guarantee for their due execution. The interests of endowments are, in fact, not unfrequently endangered by the multiplicity of the primary duties of such individuals, which leave them little or no time for the due discharge of extraneous functions.

Castlederg Boys' School, County of Tyrone.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 642.

This endowment, the history and particulars of which will be found in the extract from the report of our Assistant Commissioner, presents several matters for consideration. The principal among these are, first, the very long period of more than a century which elapsed between the death of the testator and the enforcement of his charitable intentions; the abandonment of the scheme of the testator, as regards both the boarding school and the apprenticing of the pupils to trades, but more particularly to that of weaving; and thirdly, the diversion of part of the funds from the boys' school to the establishment of one for girls. The changes with regard to boarding and apprenticing seem to be judicious, and indeed appear to have been necessitated by the present small value of the endowment; but the trustees in this and similar cases are placed in a difficulty by the expense of the proceedings in Chancery, now requisite in Ireland, for the sanction of indispensable modifications of charities, since we have no inexpensive procedure for that purpose, like that provided by the "Charitable Trusts Act" for England. The appropriation of the funds to a girls' school is, however, not only a departure from the terms of the trust, but in every way injudicious, the amount thus annually appropriated being quite insufficient to secure the services of an efficient schoolmistress. Our Assistant Commissioner, accordingly, represents the state of the girls' school as being unsatisfactory with regard to instruction.

16 & 17 Vic. c. 137, secs. 28, 32, 54.

Claremont Deaf and Dumb Institution, Glasnevin, County of Dublin.

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Glasnevin, County of Dublin.

Ulster Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind, Belfast, County of Antrim.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 20 & 426.

The peculiarity in the objects of the above three schools leads us to notice them together, they being all designed to furnish education for the deaf and dumb, while the last mentioned embraces also the blind. The first mentioned of them was established in 1816, the second in 1849, and the third in 1831. Our Assistant Commissioners, who respectively inspected them, speak favourably of the educational progress of the pupils, and also of their health and happiness. Our Assistant Commissioner who visited Claremont points out, however, some defects in the accommodation of the buildings; he also notices similar deficiencies in the St. Joseph's Institution, which, it was stated, would be rectified on the transfer, which has since taken place, of this establishment to the new building at Cabra. The last mentioned of these institutions is designed to receive pupils from all parts of Ulster, the first takes them chiefly from the other three provinces, the Managing Committee in both cases deciding on the fitness of the proposed objects. All three institutions aim at imparting religious as well as secular instruction to the children, the Belfast one, however, providing for two classes—namely, those of the Established and of the Presbyterian Church, while the other two confine their instructions to the tenets of the United Church and of the Roman Catholic Church respectively. They all, too, agree in fixing certain limits (varying between six years to thirteen years), before or after which the pupil cannot be admitted to the benefits of the institutions. The Committee who manage the Roman Catholic institution having declined to give our Assistant Commissioner

Ibid. p. 42.

the information he sought on several points, we are unable to speak about it with the same degree of certainty and fulness that we can do respecting the other two schools. The Claremont institution receives none but boarders. Of these, when the inspection by our Assistant Commissioner took place, sixty were on the roll, of whom all but two were present, and forty-five were free. In the Ulster Institution our Assistant Commissioner found fifty-six deaf and dumb pupils (boys and girls) present out of sixty-three on the roll, and fourteen out of fifteen blind pupils. Of those on the roll, fifty-nine deaf and dumb and fifteen blind pupils were boarders, of whom fifty-one and fifteen of these respective classes were free. The pupils in both schools generally spring from the humbler classes. They receive an elementary English education, and efforts are made to fit them for trades, both by giving industrial employment during their residence in the institutions, and by apprenticing them when they leave. The Committees endeavour to keep those who have left the institution in view, and our Assistant Commissioners report, that the majority turn out well and earn a respectable livelihood. A case is mentioned in one of their reports to us of a deaf and dumb boy who, having been educated in the Ulster Institution, learned cabinet-making, emigrated, and is now earning £2 a-week in New York.

Clogh, Boys' and Girls' School, County of Fermanagh.

This school presents a very satisfactory aspect as regards instruction, but it is to be regretted that a master who is reported to us as being "capable of a more extensive range of instruction if the requirements of the children called for it," should have so little scope for his exertions. This arises from the scanty or irregular attendance and early withdrawal of the girls, whose attention is too exclusively directed to industrial pursuits, with the view of enabling them, not so much to fulfil domestic duties, as to gain a livelihood. The tendency of this system to prevent the acquisition of even the elements of a sound general education, and to deprive the children of that inestimable mental and moral training which,—especially in the humbler classes,—can be acquired only at an early period of life, is, we think, a matter deserving of very serious consideration. This is the more necessary, as the uniform testimony of the most competent authorities in the United Kingdom proves that the premature removal and irregular attendance of pupils are general features in existing schools, and oppose insuperable obstacles to the success even of the best directed efforts to educate the population in such a manner as the growing demands of society require. On this subject, the following observations of our Assistant Commissioner, made with reference to the above school, deserve, we think, an attentive consideration. He says:—"Both the master and the resident curate stated that the establishment of crochet-work schools in the neighbourhood had seriously hindered the attendance of female children. I have heard this complaint repeatedly made throughout this parish, and I think it is a subject worthy of attention. These crochet-schools are, in most instances, patronized by the clergymen of the parish; and though, no doubt, most valuable in affording industrial education, should not be made to preclude entirely all opportunity of a literary and religious education."

Tables, vol. iii. p. 574.

Ibid. p. 583.

The Crofton Endowments, Counties of Wicklow and Cork.

Mrs. Marcia Anastatia Crofton, by her will, dated 17th December, 1825, appointing her husband, the Rev. H. W. Crofton, and her sister, E. R. Carberry, executors thereof, created two school endowments, one for the county of Wicklow, the other for the county of Cork. With regard to the former she devises her estates in the county of Wicklow, after her sister's decease, to the Rev. H. W. Crofton, his heirs and assigns, for ever, they paying annually for ever £50 towards the maintenance and support of a school for the education of the poor children in the Protestant religion, for which purpose she also devises two acres of land on her estate, rent free for ever, for a schoolhouse and towards its support; £10 a-year, however, of the aforesaid £50, she wishes should be given annually, in clothing or blankets, to the old poor people of the neighbourhood; she then adds that she does not make this bequest during her husband's life, but that he knows her wishes and she is sure will fulfil them. It would appear that testatrix thus left it optional with her husband to establish the school during his lifetime and did not actually bind him to do so. The school has not been established.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 258, 304.

With regard to the second endowment she devises all her real estates and freehold interests in the county and county of the city of Cork to her husband, subject, amongst other things, to a devise of two acres of her fee-simple estate, rent free for ever, for a school-house on said estate for the education of poor children of that neighbourhood; and also of a sum of £50, to be laid out annually for the support and maintenance of said school, furnishing each child that attends with a Bible; £10, however, of aforesaid £50, to be given annually, in blankets or clothing, to the poor old people of said neighbourhood.

Testatrix died in 1834.

This devise, unlike the former, should have come into operation at once on testatrix's decease. Trustees' circulars, addressed to the executor, were unanswered, and we could obtain no information showing that the endowment was in operation, and after repeated and unavailing efforts by one of our Assistant Commissioners to obtain an interview with the Rev. H. W. Crofton, we referred the case to the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for their intervention. We subsequently received the following information from that Board. The bequest for Wicklow not appearing to the Board legally enforcible during the life of the Rev. H. W. Crofton they did not inquire into it.

With regard, however, to the endowment for Cork, it appears that a school-house was built by testatrix, during her lifetime, on her estate near Macroom, and two acres of land appropriated to its use. Since her decease, in 1834, a salary of but £12 a-year has been paid to the schoolmaster by the executor, and a sum of £20 has been spent in repairs, the Rev. J. Kyle making up the salary to £32 a-year, and expending a sum of £12 in repairs out of his private resources.

Out of the annuity of £50 (Irish) the sum of £10, which was to have been expended, has in fact been expended, but the manner of its expenditure, it would appear, was not in accordance with testatrix's directions. The total sum that should have been expended on the school in the twenty-three years since testatrix's death, should have been £849 4*s.* 9*d.*, sterling; the amount actually expended was but £296, thus leaving a balance due to the charity of £553 4*s.* 9*d.*

The Rev. H. W. Crofton has made several offers with a view to arranging the matter, and undertakes to pay the annuity regularly for the future. The case is still under the consideration of the Board.

The facts of this case indicate very clearly the importance of a system of registration of bequests for educational endowments such as we propose.

Had there been in 1834 a Registrar of School Endowments, charged with the duty of reporting annually the particulars and extent of endowments, the names of the trustees, and the amount of the trust property vested in them, the nature and value of the endowments would have become known in the localities, and misapplication for so long a time would have been impossible.

Elphin Roman Catholic Diocesan Seminary, County of Roscommon.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 718.

Vide, p. 105, *supra*.

7 & 8 Vict. c. 97, sec. 12.

The facts relating to this endowment, as reported to us by our Assistant Commissioner, are fully stated in the Tables of Schools and Endowments. We think it right to direct attention particularly to them, as furnishing a remarkable example of the evil effects which result from limiting the duty of superintending and controlling the administration of educational charities to cases where the intended endowment has been "withheld, concealed, or misapplied." Such a restriction operates, we think, injuriously in two ways. In the first place, the action of the public authority is generally delayed to a period far beyond that when its intervention has become desirable, and, not unfrequently, until the benefit intended to the public has been seriously compromised, or even lost. In the next place, it is possible that even this tardy protection may never be extended to the endowment, since it may be for the advantage of all best acquainted with the estate to be administered to disregard the interests of the charity. The present case illustrates both these defects in the law as it now stands; for a lapse of thirteen years occurred, after the death of the testator, before any portion of the educational bequest was secured. Moreover, the steps by which this was effected were taken by the Board of Charitable Bequests, only on our suggestion made in consequence of the circumstances being brought under our notice by the Report of our Assistant Commissioner, who states that he has not been able to learn that either of the trustees named in the will "ever acted in the trust, or interfered, in any way, for the protection of the charity."

Forkhill, Jackson's Schools, County of Armagh.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 460.

This large endowment, which now produces £415 16*s.* 6*d.* a year, was founded by the will of Richard Jackson, esq., bearing date the 20th of July, 1776. Disputes having arisen as to its construction, an Act of Parliament (the 29th Geo. III. c. 3) was passed for finally settling them; and by it the trustees named in the will, together with certain others, were incorporated as the trustees of the charitable donations of Mr. Jackson, and the management of the endowment and administration of its funds were confided to them. Seven schools are now supported on this endowment. It is stated, in a return made to us by the Rector of Forkhill, that 400 day pupils attended them in 1854. It appears, however, from the reports of our Assistant Commissioner, that the average number actually frequenting these schools is very much less than that on the roll of each of them. The objects of this endowment were stated in the will of the testator as being, the clothing and educating, as many as the funds would allow, "children of the Church of Ireland;" these schools are, however, now thrown open to all the children of the neighbourhood, without distinction of creed, but all who attend are required to read the Scriptures daily, and are examined in them. Our Assistant Commissioner reports favourably of these schools as regards the education given, but he has pointed out a defect which we concur with him in considering as a serious one. He observes that the school-mistresses of the Churchill and Mullabawne girls' schools instruct the pupils in sewing only, so that they are obliged to resort for their general education to the boys' schools situate in the same localities. The same objectionable arrangement of teaching both sexes in the same school also exists in the Aghadonove branch of this endowment. We think that, with the ample funds at their disposal, the trustees should endeavour to devise some better plan for the instruction of the girls.

Illerton School, County of Galway.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 686.

The history of this endowment, which, after the lapse of nearly half a century, is not yet in operation, presents a remarkable example of the injury which results to educational charities from the want of an efficient system of public supervision. If such a control existed, and were accompanied with adequate powers of inquiry and control, legal proceedings would be more effectual, and, in all probability, the necessity for it would less frequently occur. This endowment, created by the will of Mr. Persse in 1812, consisted of a legacy of £50, and a rent-charge of £25 (Irish). The lapse of twenty-seven years which occurred between the testator's death and the institution of legal proceedings by the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests, in 1839, caused the loss of the legacy and of considerable arrears of the rent-charge, extending over the long period from 1812 to 1830. The particulars of this case are stated in the extract from the report of our Assistant Commissioner, which will be found in the Tables of Schools and Endowments. We concur with him in regarding it as a striking instance of the insufficiency of the powers given to the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests under the 12th sec. of the 7 and 8 Vic., c. 97, whereby the funds of a charity must have been withheld, concealed, or misapplied, before they can be brought within the jurisdiction of the Commissioners. This limitation is productive of evil in two ways; first, because such a postponement of interference on the part of the public authority tends to render it nugatory; and, secondly, inasmuch as one of the best modes of protecting public charities consists in stimulating private interest to efforts in their behalf; and this can only be accomplished by insuring a prompt and efficient attention to the representations of persons locally acquainted with the circumstances of each case.

Ibid. pp. 694–5.

Kilfinane [see *Cahirconlish*].

Vide p. 180, *supra*.

Kilkenny Grammar School [see *Carrickmacross*].

Vide p. 181, *supra*.

Kilkenny Subscription School.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 142.

This school possesses an ample revenue, chiefly derived from mixed funds of realty and personalty, created in 1818 by Joseph Evans, Esq. Pursuant

OBSERVATIONS ON SCHOOLS AND ENDOWMENTS.

to the intentions expressed by the founder in his deed of endowment, a private Act (the 59 Geo. III. c. 37) was obtained, which incorporated the trustees, under the name and title of the "Trustees of Evans' Charities." Out of the large amount of property thus vested in them, an annual sum of £100, late currency, was directed to be applied in aid of the above school, and a further annual sum of £200, same currency, towards "apprenticing ten children, male or female, of the Protestant religion, as by law established, who had been educated" thereat. It was stated in evidence at our Public Court held in Kilkenny, that the means of the trustees had been for some time past greatly crippled by the loss of a sum of £10,000, which was abstracted by their former agent. It was withdrawn by him from the Bank of Ireland, by means of a forged power of attorney. This he was enabled to do in consequence of the corporate seal having been left in the custody of the agent, whose conduct appears to have been but little superintended or controlled.

Ev. 144.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 150.

These circumstances sufficiently account for the state of the instruction given in this school, which our Assistant Commissioner reports as being, when he inspected it, almost as backward as any he had visited. The same cause has also prevented the application of the trust fund to the apprenticing the children educated in the school, pursuant to Mr. Evans' directions. By virtue of an award made in the suit instituted by the trustees against the Bank of Ireland for the recovery of the sum so abstracted, the latter was directed to transfer to the trustees the sum of £9,300 5*s.* 4*d.*, new three per cent. Government stock, and to pay them £2,964 5*s.* 10*d.*, the amount of dividends accrued since the sale of the charity funds, under the forged powers of attorney, together with their costs in the action. The endowment has, however, suffered great injury from this course of litigation, which, during a period of nine years, occasioned the frustration of the charitable intentions of Mr. Evans.

Vide p. 180, *supra.*

Kishequirk [see *Cahirconlish.*]

Vide p. 181, *supra.*

Knocktopher [see *Callan.*]

Loughash National School, Donagheady, County of Tyrone.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 644, 664.

Our Assistant Commissioner gives a favourable report of the state of instruction in this school; but he calls attention to the fact, that the school being designed not merely to impart general education, but to give special instruction in agriculture, the head master devotes too much time to the latter, and seems to take very little part in the literary instruction given in the school. Owing to this cause, and also to the withdrawal of the pupils at an early age, as soon as their labour becomes of any value, the higher branches of a good English education do not receive a sufficient share of attention.

Vide p. 180, *supra.*

Lisnagry, [see *Cahirconlish*].

Magherafelt, Rainey's Charity School, County of Londonderry.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 606, 620.

This school is reported, by our Assistant Commissioner, who inspected it, as not being in a satisfactory state. The circumstances which interfere with its efficiency arise from causes that deserve particular attention, because, we regret to say, they exist and operate in many other schools. The principal of these is the present inadequacy of the endowment to carry out the views of the founder, which, moreover, as expressed in his will, and confirmed by an Act of the Legislature, had reference to a state of things very different from that which now exists. The rent-charge of £175, late Irish currency, at which the endowment was fixed by the Act of Geo. II., is, of course, wholly insufficient to maintain, clothe, and educate twenty-four boys, as directed by the testator; and even the ten boarders now on the foundation can be supported only by the diversion of their time and attention from a course of instruction to the cultivation of a farm of twelve acres, which the master cultivates by permission of the trustee, his Grace the Lord Primate. Moreover, the period during which, in conformity with the testator's directions, the boys are allowed to remain in the school is only three years, of which three hours and one-half per diem are devoted to the ordinary branches of elementary instruction. The school-house is, as our Assistant Commissioner reports, falling into ruin, having no fund for

its repair. The premises are held at will only; but it appears that the landlords, the Salter's Company, have expressed their willingness to build a new schoolhouse, and to aid the school in other ways.

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Ev. 10581.

Malahide Adult School, County Dublin.

Our Assistant Commissioner notices, that the ground properly appertaining to this school has been withdrawn from it, and that the portion now held by the master is not that originally granted. He observes: "the latter was a badly-fenced strip of ground skirting the road, and as it interfered with the buildings and improvements now in progress in that locality, Lord Talbot De Malahide, in order to obtain possession of it, gave (a short time ago) a piece of land in lieu thereof of the same extent, but situate at the rere of the schoolhouse and much more convenient for the master. This exchange was consented to by the Rev. Mr. King (the incumbent), on obtaining, through the rural Dean, the permission of his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin. No valid transfer, however, of the school-ground has been, or I apprehend could be, properly made to Lord Talbot De Malahide; and if it should hereafter prove more valuable (as seems not unlikely, owing to its frontage to the road) than the substituted premises, there can be no doubt that his Lordship would be bound to restore the ground originally granted to the school, or held accountable to the trust for its increased value."

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 26, 44.

It appears to us, that the propriety of deciding on the advisability or otherwise of effecting such exchanges of sites, might with advantage be referred to the proposed Board of Endowed Schools, as to all endowments coming under their jurisdiction; and that they should have the power of effecting an exchange in a legal manner, if it should be considered for the advantage of the school so to do.

Moate Boys' School, Aghalurcher, Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh.

Our Assistant Commissioner has called attention in a portion of his report, which will be found in the Tables of Schools and Endowments, to the unsatisfactory state of this school. Besides the injurious effects arising from the extraneous avocations—farming and acting as clerk of petty sessions—which the master pursues, the defects of this school arise, as our Assistant Commissioner points out, from the circumstance that, the last Trustee who died had failed in his lifetime to exercise the power of nomination conferred on him by the will of the founder, Mr. Leslie. In consequence of this omission, Lord Erne, the proprietor of the estate on which the school is situate, and who, if associated in the trust of the endowment, would contribute to its support," has no connexion with it, and has withdrawn the payment of £8 yearly, which he used to give towards the salary of the master. The mistake can, in the present state of things, be rectified only by a proceeding in the Court of Chancery. We think that the power of appointing new Trustees in such cases, might be properly intrusted to the proposed Board of Endowed Schools, as regards schools placed under their care; and that as to other endowments, the expenses in Chancery should be lessened by abolishing all stamps and court fees affecting proceedings with reference to charities.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 572, 582.

Mullingar Presentation Convent National School, County of Westmeath.

The Hevey endowment, which we have noticed elsewhere, furnished the large sum of £2,062 for the erection of the house where the above school is carried on by a community of nuns of the Presentation Order. In various cases which have come under our notice the tenure of the site and premises is quite insufficient for the purposes of a school endowment, and especially for one so considerable as the above. In the present case the above sum has been expended by the trustees of the Hevey charity in erecting a school house and premises on a site secured by a lease for a term of no longer than three lives, or sixty-one years. At the period that the ground was taken the only leasing-power Act which authorized the granting of school sites in perpetuity required that the assent of the bishop of the United Church of the diocese in which the lands lay should be sought and obtained, in order to render the lease valid. The recent Act has rendered this unnecessary, but its provisions, though, in most respects, sufficiently ample and satisfactory, appear to us to be defective in one important respect, namely, that they do not confer an

Vide p. 159, *supra*. Tables, vol. iii. p. 222. Ev. 13357, &c.

50 Geo. III. c. 23.

18 & 19 Vic. c. 39.

Ibid. sec. xi.

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18 & 19 Vic. c. 39, s. vi.

absolute Parliamentary title on grants made, in conformity with its requirements, for religious and educational purposes, and we recommend that this defect should be remedied by legislation. The title which the new Act confers is, however, very superior to the tenure under which the above site is held, and the trustees would, in our opinion, do well to endeavour to secure the benefit of the retrospective provisions contained in it, which appear designed to meet cases like the present.

Rahaghy National School, County of Tyrone.

Tables, vol. iii. pp. 638, 658.

Our Assistant-Commissioner reports that no persons claiming as representatives of the grantees of the site appear to have interfered, in any way, in the management of this school for a great number of years. This inattention of local parties has not been compensated for by any public supervision, although the endowment properly falls under the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of Education. The result has been, as will be seen from a perusal of the extract of our Assistant-Commissioner's Report, that the boundaries of the original endowment have become doubtful, and even its existence is now disputed by the landlord.

Vide p. 182, *supra*.

St. Joseph's Institution for Deaf and Dumb, Glasnevin [see *Claremont*].

Ulster Institution for Deaf and Dumb and Blind, Belfast [see *Claremont*].

OBSERVATIONS ON THE TABLES OF SCHOOLS AND ENDOWMENTS.

Having in a previous part of our Report considered the particular classes of schools and educational endowments respecting which we received evidence at our public Courts, we now beg to submit some conclusions to which we have been led, or in which we have been confirmed by a general review of the Tables of Schools and Endowments. We propose to arrange these under five heads corresponding to the divisions followed in the Tables.

Tables, vol. iii.

I. *Endowments in Operation.*

Tables, vol. iii. p. 732.

The number of endowments included in the Tables No. 1, and Table of General Endowments, amounts in the whole to 976, and the total acreage of the lands belonging to these is 75,600A. 0R. 2P. The estimated annual value of the school premises is £14,615 9*s.* 7½*d.*; the net annual income derived from land is £37,564 4*s.* 2*d.*; and that arising from trust-funds is £16,391 2*s.* 7*d.*—the aggregate value amounting to £68,570 16*s.* 4½*d.* per annum. The number of schools supported by these endowments is 1,321. The National Schools excepted from Table No. 1, as not having any permanent endowments other than sites vested in the Commissioners of National Education, or in trustees for them, are 1,507 in number, and the annual value of the school premises is £7,892 4*s.* 9*d.*

Ibid. p. 734.

The total number of endowed schools in operation is 2,828, with permanent endowments amounting in the aggregate to £76,463 1*s.* 1*d.*

The great proportion of small endowments arising partly from grants of public money and in part from private donations and bequests, is a pervading feature in the Tables. Many of these are, in their present state, inadequate for carrying out the educational purposes they were designed to promote, and the inevitable result of this shows itself in an unsatisfactory state of the school premises, or the instruction, and often of both. An inspection of the Summary of Tables will indicate to some extent how far this is the case. Hence it arises, that although the aggregate value of such endowments is very considerable, the influence exerted by them on the education of the people is far below what might be expected from the total amount thus appropriated. The schools which have suggested this observation are too numerous to require or admit of individual reference, but we may mention several classes which illustrate it. These are, firstly, schools which formerly received aid from public grants that have been withdrawn, as for example, those to the Lord Lieutenant's School Building Fund, to the Association for Discountenancing Vice, and the Kildare Place Society. Many of the Parochial Schools, and of those under the Church

Ibid. p. 732.

Education Society, also belong to this class. Of schools so circumstanced one of our Assistant Commissioners who inspected in the county of Antrim has noticed two, in one of which the master's total emoluments did not exceed the yearly sum of £12, and in the other, that of £7. This inadequacy of the funds to effect the objects attempted to be carried out is also very strikingly manifested in schools which owe their endowments, wholly or principally, to private benevolence; and of this class, more especially in boarding schools for the poorer classes. In many cases it arises from the dispositions made by the founders, which were either originally out of proportion to the funds of the charity, or have become so in consequence of the change in the value of money, and other causes. The injurious effects of this deficiency manifest themselves in all the schools thus referred to, but in various ways. As regards some, the school premises have been allowed to fall into decay, or the accommodation afforded is insufficient or of an unsatisfactory kind; and this is a state of things often to be met with in charity boarding schools. In connexion with these last, we have already, had occasion to comment upon the practice, not unfrequently resorted to, of selling out the principal of the trust funds to meet current expenses, thus gradually diminishing, and sometimes reducing them very seriously. The low scale of salaries too generally paid to teachers arises in part from the inadequacy of the existing endowments. Besides the injury inflicted on the cause of education, by thus lowering the social position of the schoolmaster, the instruction suffers from the tendency which such a state of things has to induce the teacher to undertake employments inconsistent with his primary functions, or in other ways to sacrifice the due performance of these to his pecuniary advancement or material support. In the schools for the poorer classes, the under-paid master ekes out his livelihood by cultivating land, or filling other offices, such as that of postmaster or parish clerk, the holding of which, even when not directly inconsistent with his duties as teacher, may be in other respects undesirable. As regards schools of a higher grade, the course which the master is induced to pursue in order to make his tuition remunerative, tends to prevent the admission of free pupils, and in other ways to frustrate the object of the endowment. In girls' schools, especially, the salaries are often inadequate, and the wives and daughters of the masters of boys' schools, which are on the same foundations with those for girls, seem in some instances, partly for this reason, to have been appointed as teachers although not sufficiently qualified.

Another effect of the inadequacy of endowments, which we have had frequent occasion to observe, is the insufficiency of the staff of masters; a defect which, of course, is most striking in schools for intermediate education. In Grammar Schools, especially, such a state of things throws great difficulties in the way of combining a classical with an English and scientific education.

An increase in the amount of small educational endowments would be, in most cases, the only means of remedying the evils of which we have been speaking. But, even without such an augmentation, these charities might, we think, be considerably benefited, by the introduction of certain reforms in their general management. The diminution of legal expenses, and, especially, the abolition of stamp-duties and court-fees on proceedings connected with charities, would diminish the difficulties which now deter trustees from seeking to make changes which altered circumstances may have rendered necessary or desirable for promoting the efficiency of schools; and the smaller the endowment the greater would be the benefits thus conferred.

The principle thus recommended has received a legislative sanction in an Act, which, however, does not afford adequate remedies for the state of things to which we refer. It has, besides, been adopted in relation to proceedings in Chancery respecting the properties of Municipal Corporations in Ireland.

We are also of opinion that, as regards schools under the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery, the audit of the Government auditor should be a sufficient discharge to the trustees, without it being necessary to take any proceedings before the Master, or to incur the consequent expenses.

The insecurity of educational endowments appears, we regret to state, to be a circumstance of very frequent occurrence. We shall enter more fully into this subject in our observations on Tables Nos. 2 and 4; but those on which we are now commenting offer many examples of this evil. We have directed attention to such as occur in the Tables No. 1, in the observations relating to each school whose endowment is so affected.

OBSERVATIONS ON TABLES, VOL. III.

Camlin; Ballydonaghy, p. 426. Ballyclug, Parochial, p. 418. Col. Robertson's Schools, p. 510. Limerick, Blue, p. 340. Waterford, Blue Girls', p. 398. Rainey's Charity p. 606. Mercer's School, p. 16.

Vide p. 176 *supra*.

Ev. 1432; 1468; 5856. Raheny, p. 26.

Ev. 1239; 5395. Ballymena Diocesan, p. 418.

52 Geo. III. ch. 101, sec. 3. 3 & 4 Vic. ch. 108, sec. 139.

Observations on Tables, vol. iii.

This state of insecurity may, generally speaking, be traced to one of two causes; namely, either to the neglect of the trustees, or to their ignorance. Under the first head must be placed those cases where the public money has been expended in building school-houses, the site of which either never was secured, or cannot now be shown by documentary evidence to have been so. This appears to have been of no unfrequent occurrence in the administration of the Lord Lieutenant's School Building Fund; in one county alone (Limerick), four instances of such negligence will be found. We have already had occasion to comment on cases where the neglect of public boards, and especially of those where responsibility is not sufficiently individualized, has endangered and even caused serious loss to the school endowments committed to their charge. The same remark equally applies to the management of some endowments by private trustees.

Vide pp. 179–80, *supra.*

Arklow, Incorp. Soc. Day, p. 252.

On this subject Mr. Crawford, in his General Report, observes as follows:—"The inefficiency of several schools which I visited, I attribute to their being under the exclusive management of trustees, who are such only by virtue of official positions. Such persons have, in general, either not sufficient leisure from their other avocations to make frequent visitations and inspections of the school, or have not the tastes which are suitable for the office, or are not constantly resident in the locality. In some instances, I found that, having different views on education, these official trustees could not agree on the system of management to be pursued; and, as in these cases the number of trustees is generally small, the management of, and control over the school, became practically vested in one person only, who was frequently absent, or could not devote sufficient time to an efficient superintendence. It appears to me, that with official trustees should be associated some other persons, who, by constant residence in the locality, position in society, and possession of an interest in the advancement of education, would be enabled and inclined to devote some time to superintend the management of the school."

Appendix, p. 4.

We are of opinion that the defect which Mr. Crawford has noticed might be advantageously met by authorizing *ex officio* trustees to appoint representatives to act in their place on any Board at which they find themselves unable to attend; the representative to hold office for a fixed period, specified in his appointment, of not less than one or more than three years, provided the person who appointed him shall so long hold the office which gives him the right of being trustee. The representative, when once appointed, ought to possess all the powers of a trustee. We also think that the other trustees of any charity, in case an *ex officio* trustee does not attend, should have power to call on him to appoint a representative, or, in default of his doing so, to appoint one themselves.

The second cause of the insecurity of endowments, as shown in Tables, No. 1, namely, the ignorance of trustees, arises very frequently from the great difficulty, often amounting to an impossibility, which now exists of obtaining correct information as to bequests, and the imperfect manner in which wills, grants, and other documents, are preserved for the benefit of, and made accessible to the inhabitants of the localities chiefly concerned in the endowments. Numerous cases are pointed out, in the marginal observations in the Tables, where the trustees were ignorant even of the existence of the bequest or donation. A consideration of this class of cases shows the importance of a local system of registration, and also of such a central office as that which we recommend for the proposed registry of school endowments.

Prot. Orph. Soc. p. 62.
Essex-street, East, p. 62.
Female Orph. House, p. 60.
Hibernian Marine, p. 72.
Bethesda Orphan, p. 60.
Ennis Erasmus Smith's Grammar, p. 268.
Banagher Royal, p. 154.
Vide p. 174, *supra.*
Jervis-street, Orphan, p. 326.

Under the same head we must also place the cases where charity funds have been invested in a way calculated to endanger the endowment; as, for example, by laying them out in shares of Banking Companies.

The causes of inefficiency in the schools, as indicated by the Tables of Endowments in Operation, may be considered under the heads of the school premises and accessories; the teachers; the pupils; and the course of instruction. As regards the first of these, the state of repair into which some of the houses have fallen, calls for attention; especially where—as is the case with reference to the schools under the Board of Erasmus Smith, and the Commissioners of Education—it might be obviated by a due administration of the endowment. In some cases, the shortness of the lease, under which the site is held, contributes to prevent steps being taken to put the schoolhouse in a proper state. This neglect of health, comfort, and even decency, is, we regret to say, especially observable in charity boarding-schools for the poorer classes, a state of things, the existence of which strongly indicates the want of efficient inspection in the

cases where this is most needed. The same deficiency exists as to play-grounds, which often are of very scanty dimensions. This is particularly the case in large towns, where schools exist which have no play-grounds attached to them. The locality of some schools is undesirable in point of health, and of others, as being too remote from the homes of the scholars. To this latter circumstance must be, at least in part, ascribed the discontinuance of some schools. We recommend that steps should be taken for enabling trustees to change the sites, where such a course is, by them, deemed desirable; and that similar powers be conferred upon the proposed Board of Endowed Schools as to all schools vested in them, and that their consent be made necessary for such a change when the property and actual management of schools placed under them is vested in other trustees. In some of the larger schools, especially, the question is one of much importance. In these the locality, though well-chosen for a boarding-school, may not be convenient for the attendance of day-scholars; and, where such is the case, the objects of the endowment are in danger of being defeated. The supply of school requisites, also, such as books, maps, and writing materials, is far from being uniformly satisfactory.

Observations o Tables, vol. ii

Kilcullen Parochi p. 132. Hall's Endowment, p. 718.

Limerick Diocesa Ev. 2598. Enniskillen Roya Ev. 11913.

With reference to the teachers, the appointments are sometimes made without sufficient care; and the inefficiency of the masters and mistresses is often attributable, not so much to their want of intellectual qualifications, as to habits of remissness and inattention, caused, in a great measure, by the absence of inspection and control. Several cases will be observed, which indicate the want of the power of superannuating persons who, after long and faithful service, or by reason of illness, have become unable to discharge their duties as teachers. We have, in another part of the Report, made a suggestion for remedying this evil.

Blue Coat Hospita Cork, p. 288; E 1558.

Donadea, p. 128; Muckamore Abbey, p. 436; Clones, Aghadrumsee, p. 574.

Vide p. 225, *infra*

The great irregularity of the attendance of the pupils is, we regret to say, a striking feature in the schools for the poorer classes throughout Ireland, but especially in those situate in agricultural districts. The children are also withdrawn at a very early age, so that the amount of instruction given, and discipline imparted, is much less than might be supposed. The discouragement arising to the teachers from these causes is great, and their injurious influences can be effectually combated only by systematic inspection and periodical examinations.

Ferns, Erasmus Smith's English, p. 234. Drumkeeran; Feddin's, p. 574.

We must also observe that, in many of the schools for the poorer classes, the children receive a superficial instruction, and are not sufficiently grounded in a knowledge of principles. In some cases this is attributable to the fact, that the teachers themselves are deficient in this respect; in others, it arises from the undue occupation of the pupil's time in that kind of special training, which is called industrial education, and which, although it may, when rightly directed, be useful as an accessory, should not be allowed to encroach on the main object of giving a sound mental and moral discipline. Such a deviation from the true course is especially observable in those girls' schools where much attention is given to instruction in the art of lace making and fancy work.

Charleville Convent National, p. 280. Clones, Clogh, p. 574.

As a general result, we feel bound to say that the defects we have noticed, as indicative of the abuse and inefficiency of endowed schools of all kinds, may be traced to the following principal causes—first, the want of inspection, conducted with authority, by duly qualified inspectors, visiting at short and uncertain intervals; secondly, the want of properly trained masters, receiving adequate remuneration, and animated in the discharge of their duty by the prospects of promotion, and of retiring pensions as the reward of faithful service.

We cannot conclude our remarks on these Tables, without calling particular attention to the very unsatisfactory state of the question of free admission, and the general disregard of the directions of founders and donors of charities in this respect. We have already noticed this serious defect with reference to the management of the Royal Schools, but it is equally observable in schools of private foundation; and we are of opinion, that there should be for all Free Schools, a clear definition and public announcement of the rights of pupils to free admission, and the qualifications expected from them.

Bangor, Ballymaconnell, and Ballymullen National, p. 532.

Endowments not in Operation.

The number of educational endowments throughout Ireland, which, though proved to exist, are not in operation, is very considerable, being 296 in number. In some counties it is more, in others less, but the aggregate value of the fund thus lying unused for the purposes of education is great, amounting for the whole of Ireland to the annual sum of £7,170 11*s.* 11*d.*

Tables, vol. iii. p. 732.

The majority of these endowments are individually of small amount, but this is by no means universally the case.

A very large proportion of the small endowments belonging to schools which have ceased to be in operation, were indebted for their origin or principal support to societies which at one time received annual grants from Parliament. Owing either to the discontinuance of the assistance received from these sources, or to other causes, such as changes in the population, and the competition of new schools, many of the schools thus endowed have been given up. The number of instances in which the funds of these foundations have been applied to other educational purposes, not inconsistent with the intention of the founders, is small. In some cases, however, this has been done, and the same probably might have been effected in others, were it not for the great difficulty and expense which now attends any endeavour to procure a legal authorization for making such changes. To obviate this, we recommend that jurisdiction, similar to that now possessed by the Court of Chancery, should be given to the Assistant Barrister, as to all charities, the funds of which, whether arising out of land or personal property, are of small amount; subject, however, to an appeal to the Chancellor, on a statement of facts signed by the Assistant Barrister.

Townsend-street Orphan Girls', p. 90; Hall's Endowment, p. 718.

In addition to the schools which have been abandoned from want of adequate support, or which are no longer needed, we find others which seem never to have been required in the localities thus injudiciously chosen for them. In some cases of this sort public money was improvidently granted by those who were then intrusted with its distribution; the public possess an especial claim to have such endowments rendered available for educational purposes.

Kilcullen Parochial, p. 132. Dunaghy; Cherois, Montalto, Russell, and William p. 440.

The bad consequences of such a state of things are numerous and patent. The want of care and providence which has caused them is indirectly productive of evil, since it tends to diminish the number of those donations bequeathed by private persons, the frequency and amount of which must greatly depend on the confidence which the public have in their being duly and efficiently applied. But the direct effects also deserve serious consideration, and call for the application of prompt remedies. Many of the buildings attached to these abandoned schools have already fallen into bad repair and are undergoing a process of constant deterioration, which, if not arrested, must seriously diminish their value. In other cases they are exposed to the risk of being lost altogether, unless looked after, while evidence can still be procured of their creation, or before the adverse possession of the landlords or of strangers has conferred an indefeasible title. We have pointed out in the Tables the individual endowments to which this remark is applicable.

Killann, p. 242. Aghada Parochial, p. 302. Nohaval, or Oatlands, p. 304.

Some cases of adverse possession indicate the existence of legal difficulties, which prevent the cheap and prompt recovery of school-premises from masters and others who improperly overhold.

These arise from the provision of the Civil Bill Act, which excludes from the jurisdiction of the local court cases where the title to land is called in question. We are of opinion that an exception should be made to the above rule as regards land not exceeding, in the whole, two acres, which has been at any time the subject of an educational charity; and that where such is proved to have been the case to the satisfaction of the Assistant Barrister, he should have full power to decide the rights of the parties, subject only to an appeal at the next assizes, or to one of the superior courts of common law, on a statement of facts signed by the Assistant Barrister.

St. George Endowment, p. 224. Cotter's Endowment, p. 306. Limerick Free, p. 346. Illerton, p. 686. Kellett's Endowment, p. 88. Bertrand's Charity, p. 88. Tait's Endowment, p. 244. Saintfield, p. 550. Monkstown, p. 36. Roman Catholic Diocesan, p. 718.

The Tables of Schools and Endowments Not in Operation afford additional proofs of that deficiency of supervision and control on which we have already animadverted. The delays which have prevented the establishment of some valuable educational charities, have no doubt, in part, arisen from the expenses, delays, and difficulties of legal proceedings, but still more, we think, from the cause to which we have just referred. Among the endowments which either have been discontinued, or were never established, some indicate the absence of adequate powers in the public bodies entrusted with their management; while the history of others manifests culpable neglect on the part of the authorities.

Cases also occur where, owing to the disagreement of trustees, great delays have taken place, which probably might have been avoided, had any authority existed competent to intervene, and whose decision would have been listened to with respect by all parties. Other endowments indicate the necessity for supervision and active interference on behalf of charities which are neglected by their private and local trustees, such being not unfrequently the case where these are relatives of the

founder and recipients of his bounty. Numerous and striking instances will also be found in these Tables of endowments which have fallen into abeyance in consequence of the ignorance respecting them of local parties, and even of the very persons nominated as trustees, an ignorance which, we think, is traceable principally to two causes—first, the deficiency of local records, and secondly the want of a central and well-organized system of registration, which might render information easily accessible to all. Had things been thus arranged we should not have seen so many examples of endowments undisputed, yet never put in operation, or subsequently abandoned; accompanied, too, as such cases frequently are, by the loss of deeds, and the deterioration or loss of the property.

Observations on Tables, vol. iii.

St. John's College, p. 404. Tew's Endowment, p. 192. Reenascreena, p. 306. St. John's School, p. 346. Ardfinnan, p. 374. Blue Coat School.

The Tables No. 2 comprehend a kind of endowments not in operation, different from the class which we have been considering, those, namely, where the donation or bequest is certain in its nature, but the enjoyment of it by the charity is postponed until the happening of specified events. The foundations of this kind which most commonly occur are legacies made subject to the life interest of persons named in the will. It is clear that this class of endowments require peculiar watchfulness, in order both that the property may be duly secured during the period of its enjoyment by the third party, and that the claim of the charity may be promptly enforced on the happening of the specified event. The existing system does not make any adequate provision for securing these ends, the attainment of which, we propose, should form a part of the duties of the proposed Registrar of School Endowments.

Contingent Endowments.

The endowments which are given by will upon the occurrence of events which may possibly never happen, are twenty-nine in number; and their value, so far as ascertained, amounts to £883 7*s.* 6*d.* The observation which we have made above, respecting that class of endowments not in operation, the enjoyment of which by the charity is postponed until the occurrence of some specified event, applies with still greater force to those comprehended under Tables No. 3; for in addition to the reasons already given, there generally exists in such cases, considerable difficulty in ascertaining the truth respecting the contingent events, which are often of a complicated nature, and seldom easily discovered. This class of endowments, as much as any other, requires the constant attention of an officer charged with the duties which we propose to intrust to the Registrar of School Endowments.

Tables, vol. iii. p. 733.

Endowments Lost or Expired.

The endowments which we have found to be lost or expired are 178 in number; and their aggregate—not unfrequently, also, their individual value—is such as to require an investigation of the causes which have thus seriously diminished the public property available for educational purposes. The total acreage of the endowments thus lost or expired was 1,314A. 2R. 31P. (exclusive of sites, less than one rood). The annual income derivable from land and trust funds, the loss of which to educational charities has been ascertained by us, is £2,574 18*s.* 7*d.* An inspection of the Tables, No. 4, will show that in several instances endowments respecting which no information was at first forthcoming, have been recovered by means of the inquiries which our Assistant Commissioners instituted or suggested. We think, that if due exertions had been made to preserve the evidence of the existence and endowments of these charities by the persons intrusted with the care of them, many would be at this moment in operation, which we have been obliged to class as lost, mainly for want of sufficient records and trustworthy evidence.

Doyle's Endowment, p. 8. Davis' Endowment, p. 38.

The Tables, No. 4, illustrate, perhaps more fully and forcibly than any others, several of the topics on which we have already insisted.

They offer numerous cases, where the loss of the endowments must be ascribed to the prevailing absence of local records, and accessible sources of information; to the ignorance or the neglect of the trustees, both private and public; and to that want of an efficient and responsible system of inquiry, supervision, and control, which, we regret to say, too generally characterizes the management of educational charities. It is not always easy, or even possible, to refer individual cases of loss to any one of these causes; for it is worthy of remark, that they act and re-act upon each other, and are, therefore, generally found in combination. For example, the absence of powers enabling the authorities either to take charge of educational charities promptly themselves, or to assist others in doing so, almost inevitably fosters a spirit of inattention and indifference, which, even where

Hewitston's Endowment, p. 38. Portland-street, St. James', p. 92. Oatlands, p. 192. Kellett's Endowment, p. 88. Presbyterian Orphan Girl's, p. 94. Roman Catholic Poor, p. 330.

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the power exists, postpones intervention not unfrequently until a period when interference is no longer availing. We have already noticed the practice of trustees selling out the principal of the charity funds, in order to meet current expenses; and this has caused the diminution of various endowments; among which we may refer to several of those attached to the parochial schools in the city of Dublin. A public audit of accounts would, we think, tend to check such abuses. Where schools are from any cause discontinued, there is a manifest danger that their endowments may, where due care is not taken, in course of time, be lost. The Tables now under consideration show that no adequate provision at present exists against such a danger. As regards the schools thus discontinued, it is not unfrequent to meet cases of adverse possession, prolonged so as to occasion the loss of the endowments.

An efficient system of registration of deeds and wills would have tended to prevent the oversights which have thus occasioned the loss of various endowments; but protection against similar errors and oversights, would, we think, be still further insured by the system of registering endowments, which we recommend. Notice of all intended judicial sales should be given to the proposed Registrar of School Endowments, and the attention of that officer should be, under all circumstances, carefully directed to their protection. Another, and a somewhat numerous class of losses, occasioned by the want of prompt intervention and constant supervision, consist of those where the funds of the charity have been placed on insecure investments. Most of these are cases where the security was merely personal, and the trustees, who were not unfrequently executors or relatives of the founders, took no steps for the proper investment of the property. The interval thus allowed to elapse before the intervention of competent authorities was invoked rendered the employment of legal measures difficult, and sometimes futile. The insecurity and ultimate loss of other investments has arisen from the expenditure of the funds in building houses upon sites secured only for short periods. This is closely connected with the important subject of leasing powers, the defective state of the law on this head having, probably, necessitated such an outlay in particular localities. We also find instances where the public money has been expended on sites held by leases which have determined in consequence of the eviction for non-payment of head-rent.

Vide p. 227, *infra*.

Benson's Endowment, p. 194. Ballynadrummy; Bradford; Ballitore, p. 132. Shane's Castle, p. 442. Kilcommon, Parochial, p. 260. Celbridge, Incorporated Society's, p. 132. Wicklow, Parochial, p. 260. Strand-street, Charity, p. 94. Kilcarron, p. 378.

Several examples occur of endowments yielding considerable incomes which, like annuities and house rents, have expired; and a consideration of these suggests the desirableness of conferring powers of exchange, under which trustees, subject to proper control, might vary securities, and convert such terminable interests into a permanent fund. We also find in those Tables losses occasioned, chiefly, if not entirely, by the ignorance of local parties and trustees, arising from the deficiency of records, and the difficulty, we might indeed say, the impossibility, which at present exists of procuring such full and accurate information as would be readily supplied by central authorities in a well-organized system.

Appendix, p. 12.

On this subject, Dr. M'Blain, in his General Report, observes as follows:—

"In very few instances have I found that proper records of the schools which came under my notice have been preserved, or that proper books of account have been kept. Owing to neglect in these particulars I have often experienced the greatest difficulty in ascertaining the simplest matters bearing on the past history, or the expenditure and funds of the schools.

"I would suggest that some adequate provision should be made for the safe custody of original deeds and documents relating to endowed schools. Many of these instruments are in the hands of private and irresponsible parties, and many have been lost or are not forthcoming now, in consequence of the negligence or default of the individuals to whose care they were intrusted. Of course where the muniments of title have been lost or cannot be produced, the security of the endowment will be imperilled; and that this is no merely fanciful danger, several cases of schools which fell under my own notice sufficiently attest. It appears to me, therefore, very desirable that some proper depository should be provided, where the trust deeds and other muniments of endowed schools may be lodged for safe preservation."

Although it cannot be denied that no such provision for the safe custody of all instruments relating to educational charities, and the protection of their endowments, at present exists so far as relates to foundations consisting of personal property, yet it might be thought that the case was different with respect to endowments of real property, which would seem to be protected by the operation

belonging to the school were situated in the adjoining townland of Kilgasky, mentioned by Mr. Rothwell, is correct. But it further appears that the district comprising the two townlands, Kilcarron and Kilgasky, was known by the name of, and was generally called Kilcarron, being the name of the residence and demesne of the owner, Mr. Smith; that the demesne of Kilcarron extended into the townland of Kilgasky, and was meared on the east by the school premises. Now, the lands mentioned in the deed are described by metes and bounds, which correspond exactly with the premises occupied in connexion with the school, the western boundary being stated to be Kilcarron demesne; and it appears that the lands are within from twenty-five to thirty perches of the boundary of the townland of Kilcarron. There can, therefore, be no doubt, that although the lands were described as being part of Kilcarron, the land on which the school-house was erected was the same as that granted and intended to be granted by the deed, and this could have been ascertained without any difficulty.

"As to the second and third statements of Mr. Rothwell it is observable, that it is not alleged that any application was made, or notice given, to the persons who, on the discovery of the grant, were obviously the proper persons to receive notice, viz., the grantees in, and trustees under the deed, Messrs. Rogers and Hemsworth, who, I believe, were then both alive. I know that one of them, Mr. Hemsworth, was living, in the early part of this year at Abbeyville, of which place he is described in the deed, although he has since died. The parties served with notice do not appear to have had any special connexion with the school or endowment, and it does not appear that any of them were called on to interfere, with the exception, perhaps, of Messrs. M'Causland and Fetherston, who are the solicitors of 'the Commissioners of Education;' but it seems that notice was given to them in their capacity of solicitors of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who were totally unconnected with the case, and in this respect there seems to me to have been a palpable miscarriage in the proceedings.

"As to the fourth statement of Mr. Rothwell, it is quite true that at the time of the sale, George Bethel was in possession of the land, and, I presume, received the usual notice served on occupiers. The circumstances under which he became tenant to Mr. Smith are stated in my original report. It would appear, that by a mistake on his part as to the name of the person who was Solicitor to the Commissioners of the Lord Lieutenant's School Building Fund, he was unable to maintain his rights to the land when interfered with by Mr. Ralph Smith. He is unable now to state what was the exact claim which he made, if at all, on the service of the notice on him; but he had become, long before, tenant from year to year to Mr. Smith.

"The fifth statement suggests a point of law as a justification of the sale, viz., that the grant of the land was not valid as against creditors who had charges on the estate prior to the creation of the estate of the grantor, Mr. Ralph Smith.

"It appears to be admitted that Mr. Ralph Smith was tenant for life of the lands, and as there is no allegation to the contrary, it may be presumed that he was possessed or seized of such an estate as to bring him within the class of persons authorized to make grants for schools by the first section of the Act of the 50th year of his Majesty Geo. III. chap. 33, under the powers of which Act the grant is professed to be made; that Act authorized all persons whatsoever seized of any lands in fee simple, fee tail, or for life, in possession, with immediate remainder to his, her, or their issue, of any interest in lands by his or their deeds, to grant any part of such lands, not exceeding two Irish acres, not being situated within the liberties of any city or corporate town, of whatever value the same might be, and being no part of the demesne lands usually occupied with, or reputed as demesne, to any person or persons, &c., who shall be approved of for that purpose by the bishop of the diocese in which such lands lay, and to his and their heirs and successors in fee simple, or for any lesser interest, such approbation to be expressed by such bishop, being a party to, and signing and sealing such deed in trust, and for the use of a resident schoolmaster, subject to the conditions and regulations in the deed to be mentioned. The Act does not contain any provision expressly making the grant effectual against all persons whatsoever having interests or estates in the land prior or subsequent to the estate of the grantor. And it might have been a question of some difficulty under that Act, whether persons having interests in the land prior to such estate would be bound thereby, but it seems to me that a subsequent Statute settles the question. By section 10 of the 4th Geo. IV. chap 86, it is enacted, among other things, that all lands and

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Coombe; Erasmus Smith's English, p. 92. Rathmore Ditto, p. 132.

tion for the property thus parted with, although its value had been greatly augmented by the erection of houses, built wholly or in part out of the funds of the charity. We mention in the margin two of these lost endowments. One of them alone involved the sacrifice of the sum of upwards of £1,000, and the aggregate value of the sites and premises thus lost to the foundation is very considerable.

Alleged Endowments.

We have placed in the Tables, No. 5, all cases where some indication of an endowment having existed appeared from the results of inquiries of previous Commissioners, or in evidence tendered to us, but with reference to which we were on inquiry able to ascertain that there was no endowment, or were unable to obtain satisfactory evidence of the existence of any.

These Tables indicate very clearly that the existing arrangements fail to insure a full and accurate record of educational charities. Many of the alleged endowments were found to be annual payments of a purely voluntary nature, or funds, the application of which to the purposes of education was merely discretionary with the trustees. The frequent imperfection of the descriptions given, and the difficulty of identifying them, shows the deficiency of authentic information and permanent records; and this is the more remarkable, since, in a large proportion of the cases comprised in these Tables, the inquiries were instituted on the authority of the reports of previous Commissions, and the books of public Boards. In very many instances the examination we have caused to be instituted respecting the allegations thus made, has terminated in showing that no such endowments existed; that they were appropriated to purposes other than those of education; that the payments were voluntary or discretionary; that the funds were not properly secured, or that the alleged endowments were identical with some other foundations.

All these classes of cases afford testimony of the existence of the defects which we have indicated above, and the consideration of them tends still further to convince us of the necessity for remedial measures for insuring the safety of educational charities.

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION AND DISCIPLINE IN ENDOWED SCHOOLS.

The observations which we have made, and the evidence which we have collected with reference to education, and especially to intermediate education in Ireland, enable us to state at some length our impressions respecting its present state; and we think it right to accompany these remarks with some suggestions for its improvement. It can hardly be doubted that extensive changes, not of detail only, but affecting the general course of education now pursued in the grammar schools, are needed, in order to bring them into harmony with the real wants of our time, and to avert the great social dangers which would necessarily ensue, if the standard of instruction for the upper classes were permitted to remain in any essential points below that level to which primary instruction has gradually attained. This last has, during the last quarter of a century, been steadily rising in Ireland; and in some important respects it now holds a position with reference to the former which demands the most serious consideration from all who are engaged in the work of education, or interested in the well-being of society. We propose, therefore, to review briefly the various branches of education, and more especially of grammar-school education as offered to our own observation, or presented to us in evidence. These remarks, together with the recommendations we have to offer, may be conveniently classified under four heads, embracing—first, the general development of intellect in scholars; secondly, their practical training, considered with reference, both to their general duties as members of society and to the special career for which they may be destined; thirdly, their religious and moral discipline; and fourthly, their æsthetic culture.

INTELLECTUAL EDUCATION.

The requirements of a modern course of instruction and mental training are of two kinds, literary and scientific. The first of these, so far as concerns our present subject, comprises, Reading, Writing, English Dictation, English Grammar, Composition, and Literature, Modern Languages, Greek and Latin, Geography, and History; while the second embraces, Arithmetic, Geometry, Algebra, Trigonometry, Astronomy, and so far as may be practicable, the Elements of Physics, Chemistry, and Physiology.

Course of Instruction and Discipline.

Although the phrase, an "English Education" is sometimes narrowed and made to mean little more than reading and writing, we think that such an interpretation is very far from conveying its real significance. This is obscured by the prevalence of ideas, derived from an antiquated standard of education, and still to a great extent predominant in our grammar schools. Our conception of the real import of this phrase will be shown by the observations which we beg to submit under each of the above heads.

Literary Instruction.

Reading.

We are of opinion that the art of reading is in general very imperfectly taught. We rarely met with a pupil whose elocution evinced an intelligent comprehension of the subject, combined with clearness of enunciation, and a correct appreciation of the niceties of punctuation, and the grammatical relation of phrases and sentences to each other. We attribute this general prevalence of bad reading to several causes, among which the most prominent are—ignorance of the meaning and derivation of words; want of knowledge of the grammatical relation of the different clauses of the sentence to each other, and of the logical connexion of the sentences themselves; and lastly, lack of instruction in the art of modulating the voice. The deficiencies of instruction in grammar, logic, and music, thus found to exist in the most elementary branch of a good English education, arise, we think, from causes which equally affect its higher departments. We would particularly point attention to two—the one being too low an estimate of the value to every educated man of a sound knowledge of his own language and literature; and the second, the practice that too generally prevails in grammar schools, of committing the English department to an inferior class of persons, holding very subordinate positions, and receiving inadequate remuneration. The latter of these errors inevitably results from the former.

The system of intermediate education cannot be brought into a satisfactory state until it has undergone great changes in both of these respects; and we are of opinion, that while the details of every department must, to a certain extent, be intrusted to subordinates, the general supervision of the English, no less than of the Classical and Scientific departments, is an essential part of the duty of the head master, and that its conduct and management ought to be committed to the charge of accomplished scholars.

Having spoken in terms of condemnation respecting the style of elocution commonly met with in schools, we feel bound to state that in some cases the correct reading of the pupils was a marked indication of the general efficiency of the teachers.

Writing.

The practice of teaching to write on slates, is, no doubt, economical, and in the early stages of progress it may answer sufficiently well; but we do not think that it can take the place of writing with paper and pen. We frequently observed a neglect to use engraved head-lines even when these were furnished to the schools, the result of such omission being that the pupils learned to imitate the defective writing of the master. We think it right to record our approbation of the method of tuition in the art of writing pursued in the schools of the Christian Brothers. The first line in the page is an ordinary engraved head-line; the second is blank; the third and each alternate line in the rest of the page exhibits a faint tracing of the head line. The pupil fills in the page, being in one line left to proceed without assistance, whilst in the succeeding one he is aided by the tracing. The excellent effects of this system may be ascribed to two circumstances: one being, that the attention of the pupil is in this way forcibly drawn to the contrast between his own copy and the model proposed for his instruction; the other, that in thus retracing his steps, he not only observes his errors, but learns how to correct them. The instruction in free-hand drawing given to junior pupils in many of the continental schools is found conducive to their improvement in writing, and the example thus set might, we think, be advantageously followed in this country.

We also found that short-hand was taught in the Christian Brothers' School at Tralee; and the proceedings of the Public Court which we held at that place were reported for a newspaper by a schoolboy of about twelve years of age. Ev. 2353.

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION AND DISCIPLINE.

Ev. 14619–38.

We recommend that the copy books should be preserved, so as to enable the Inspectors, at their successive visits, to form a judgment of the progress made by the pupils. We noticed with disapproval that, in one of the most richly endowed schools in Ireland, the head-master was in the habit of selling the copy-books as fast as they were filled up by the scholars, and applying the proceeds to his own use.

First Report, C. S. Commissioners, p. xix; Second Report, C.S. Commissioners, p. iv.

We would observe that increasing prominence is given to good writing, as one of the tests for the granting of certificates by your Majesty's Civil Service Commissioners.

English Dictation.

Ev. 9466.

We are of opinion that the practice of exercising the pupils in writing from dictation has been hitherto much neglected, and that its importance as an element of universal education is very imperfectly appreciated. In many of the primary schools, however, this subject has been attended to more carefully, and with better results than in the grammar schools. In these last the amount of time and care devoted to it are quite disproportionate to the demands of a branch of education which, in our judgment, constitutes one of the most indispensable qualifications for persons in every rank, and is especially so for the educated gentleman. Even in cases where an anxiety was expressed to promote this study, we observed that lessons in dictation were supposed to occupy an undue amount of time, and were, consequently, postponed to pursuits which, though certainly important, are not more so than that of which we are now speaking. This is, in our opinion, a great error; for, when intelligently conveyed, no lessons are more instructive than those in English dictation, nor could the time of the pupils be better employed than in following them. We think they ought to form part of the daily course, at all events for the less advanced pupils; because they furnish the best means of instruction in some parts of an English education which, though elementary, are very material. Among these may be mentioned spelling, punctuation, and other requisites of orthography. Without an acquaintance with these, it is impossible that anyone can write a good letter; much less can he succeed in the more difficult species of composition. The defects of the present system of education, as regards not only the poorer, but the middle classes, have been strikingly manifested in the results of the examinations held by your Majesty's Civil Service Commissioners. They state, in their First Report, "that, although the range "of examination includes, in some instances, Latin, or a modern foreign lan-"guage, history, geography, &c., the great majority of rejections have been "occasioned, not by ignorance of these subjects, but by inability to spell with "ordinary accuracy. The failures, moreover, have not been errors in words of "rare occurrence, or technical character, but discreditable mistakes in those of "every-day use." They add, that out of a list of 185 rejected candidates, who were examined (among other things), in writing from dictation, and tested as to their power of correcting the orthography of a lithographed manuscript, purposely misspelt, forty-one were refused certificates on the ground of spelling alone, and twenty-three for mistakes in spelling combined with bad writing; while deficiencies of the same sort entered more or less into nearly all the cases of rejection on other grounds.

First Report, C. S. Commissioners, p. xiv.

The practice of copying printed extracts, selected from good authors, would, we think, tend to train the junior pupils in the observance of the rules of orthography and punctuation, and to give them habits of accuracy. This exercise would also afford an introduction to English dictation, which should itself be made subservient to instruction in the higher branches of English composition. In reviewing all such exercises, the master should comment upon the mistakes into which the pupils have fallen, pointing out for the benefit of the entire class the rules which, in each instance, have been violated. This, we think, is a point seldom sufficiently attended to, but one of great importance. Among the subjects for such observations, the teacher should include not only errors in orthography and punctuation, but the want of neatness and propriety in the writing. The dictation lessons of the more advanced pupils ought to be corrected out of school-hours by the master, whose remarks, addressed to the entire class on the following day, would thus have more weight. We may add, that when the passages are judiciously selected by an intelligent teacher, the exercise in dictation may be made a channel, not only for giving direct

instruction of the most valuable and effectual nature in English grammar, but for incidentally imparting much interesting knowledge in collateral subjects, such, for example, as geography and history. Thus, we may gather from this department also the importance of committing even the most elementary branches to minds possessing qualifications much higher than those which might, on a superficial examination, seem sufficient. It will, we are convinced, be found that teachers of an inferior stamp are incapable of imparting, in a satisfactory manner, direct instruction even of an elementary character; while their deficiencies, both of heart and head, entirely disqualify them from realizing the great aims of a good education, in the true and comprehensive sense of that word.

Course of Instruction and Discipline.

English Grammar, Composition, and Literature.

If, as already stated, the standard at present maintained with respect both to the instructors of youth and the instruction given, is unsatisfactory with reference to the inferior branches of an English education; its deficiencies are, as might be expected, still more striking as regards the higher departments. We have, however, in some instances, found in masters an increasing sense of the necessity for assigning to these subjects a much higher place, and of devoting to them a far larger share of time and attention than have hitherto been allotted in the general scheme of education, and especially in that pursued in grammar schools. We have also received testimony to the value attached by intelligent men of business and others to a liberal English education, both as indicating general mental progress, and as furnishing special qualifications for the performance of the duties incident to commercial and industrial pursuits.

Ev. 5278, 7412, 11280, *et seq.*

Vide p. 217–23, *infra.*

We found, in the grammar schools visited by ourselves, a prevailing deficiency of sound instruction in the meanings, derivation, and composition of English words, and a very general neglect of exercises in the grammatical analysis of sentences. Our Assistant Commissioners have confirmed these observations in their reports on various schools which came under their inspection.

As already remarked, these fundamental defects are the chief causes of bad reading, but their influence extends much farther, for their existence precludes the possibility of attaining a correct style of speaking and writing in our own language; and these we believe to be the most valuable accomplishments which any man can possess, let his rank and position in society be what it may.

Regarded as a means to this end, we consider that the study of grammar merits much attention; and we by no means share the opinion of those who suppose that the knowledge of the grammatical structure of the dead languages can supply the place of a direct study of that of our own tongue, although, no doubt, the former, if judiciously used, may materially facilitate the latter.

The attention of the more advanced pupils might be directed, in connexion with their grammatical studies, to such elementary portions of logic as an experienced teacher, himself thoroughly master of the subject, could usefully convey by means of oral instruction. When the Aristotelian logic formed the subject of the first science examination of undergraduates in Trinity College, Dublin, it was taught in Irish schools. In making this remark, however, we have no intention of recommending the introduction of logic as a separate department into general intermediate education, much less would we wish to see any attempt at teaching metaphysics to schoolboys.

Ev. 11396, &c.

It is unnecessary that we should enlarge on the benefits, extending not only to the wider social relations of life, but to the domestic well-being of the many, which would flow from the general diffusion of a practical facility in English composition, especially in its simpler forms. Numerous and undeniable as they are, we regret to be obliged to state that little pains have hitherto been taken in our schools to secure their realization. In this respect many of the Continental schools set us an example worthy of imitation. The pupils are there led on, step by step, to the acquirement of the art of composition, the teacher commencing his course of tuition by narrating a short story, which the scholars are afterwards required to write out in their own words from memory. Your Majesty's Civil Service Commissioners have adopted a test of proficiency in English Composition somewhat like this in its character, the selection, namely, as the topic upon which the candidate is to write, of "some very simple and familiar subject; sometimes an imaginary letter to a friend, describing an event of the day, or some place or book, with which he might happen to be familiar." They remark, however, that "notwithstanding the easy form they had in this

Second Report, C.S. Commissioners, p. iv.

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Vide p. 218, *infra.*

manner given to the examination, they found but few instances in which a candidate showed great facility of composing even an ordinary letter." The wish to secure the services of persons as clerks and assistants who are qualified to conduct a correspondence, and are able after receiving brief instructions, to write the necessary letters, is increasingly felt by merchants and persons engaged in every department of business. The present state of education, however, does but little to supply this want; the needful facility being in general acquired only after a long apprenticeship, and many failures. This, we think, must be ascribed more frequently to the want of power to compose correctly in the English Language than to a deficiency in tact and intelligence on the part of the clerk.

The exercises employed by the master for training pupils in the art of English Composition, may be varied indefinitely. Subjects may be chosen which give more and more scope for the exercise of intelligence and good taste on the part of the pupil, until finally he becomes competent to amplify a few disjointed phrases into a connected narrative, having all its parts well arranged, and every sentence expressed in clear and appropriate language. In connexion with this subject, we may also mention another test employed in the Civil Service Examinations, in conformity with the wishes expressed by the heads of many departments of the public service: this is, a trial of the candidates' ability to make an abstract, or *précis* of official papers or correspondence. Your Majesty's Civil Service Commissioners attach great importance to this test, on the ground both of its special value in various public departments, and also as "testing several important intellectual qualities." They express the hope that when the existence of this test for the public service becomes generally known, those persons who are likely to enter into it will take proper steps for procuring the necessary instruction. We think that this recommendation might with advantage be kept in view, as regards the more advanced classes of pupils in grammar schools.

First Report, C. S. Commissioners, p. xx. Second Report, p. iv.

With reference to a knowledge of English literature, although the age at which boys usually leave school would render it difficult to introduce much instruction of this kind into the regular course, we think that an intelligent and zealous master might do a good deal towards promoting a taste for so important a part of a liberal education by reading with the head class selections from the writings of our best English authors. Something, also, might be done by the establishment of school lending-libraries; and, as already observed, the regular tuition in the elementary branches of the English course would, in the hands of superior teachers, indirectly prove the means of imparting much valuable information on this as well as other subjects.

Ev. 11289.

Ev. 11299.

Modern Languages.

We regret to state that the study of the modern languages is greatly neglected in our grammar schools. Most frequently they are treated as *extras*, and form no part of the regular and prescribed course; but even where this is not the case, the number of lessons given—one, or, at farthest, two a-week—is quite inadequate to produce any permanent good results. Some masters have, indeed, sought to introduce these studies into the general system of education, and we received testimony, showing not only the practicability of so doing without detriment to classical studies, but the reciprocal advantages which might be expected to flow from the union of these several branches of philological study. We are of opinion that the change thus required would be greatly facilitated by attending to two things—first, the commencement of instruction in the living languages at an early stage of education, before the greater part of a boy's time and attention are engrossed by mathematical and classical studies; secondly, the abandonment of the system at present pursued of teaching languages chiefly, if not entirely, by books. We would recommend the substitution, for the mere eye-knowledge now too exclusively imparted, of instruction given according to the natural method, that is to say, through the ear. The value of oral instruction in this, and, indeed, in almost every department of study, cannot, we think, be too highly estimated, whether it be regarded as a means of awakening the interest of the pupils, and training their mental and moral faculties, or as furnishing a test of the master's acquirements, and especially of his capacity for teaching.

Ev. 3888, 11393, 11821.

We received at our public courts abundant and convincing evidence of the interest which is widely felt by intelligent men of all ranks and professions in the promotion of these studies. Gentlemen engaged in various branches of

commerce and manufactures gave their testimony to the increasing importance, in relation to their pursuits, of a familiar acquaintance with modern languages, and particularly with French and German. They also expressed their conviction that such knowledge should embrace not merely the power of reading and translating these languages, but of speaking and writing them correctly, and with ease.

Thus, Mr. Robert Malcolmson, a merchant in Clonmel, deposed that his firm were obliged to procure the services of persons, not habitually employed in their own establishment, "in translating contracts and letters, bills of lading, and such like." Ev. 1073.

Mr. Thomas Revington stated in evidence, that the establishment with which he was connected in Limerick "sent a buyer regularly to France; that they were obliged to have a person in their counting-house who could read French; and that he considered it would be for their interest, if they had young men acquainted with the French language, to send them over frequently to France." Ev. 4239.

Mr. William Franklin, the manager of the Limerick Branch of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, stated to us, that it was very desirable that a knowledge of modern languages, and of French especially, should form a part of that general education which he considered an essential qualification for clerks and assistants in the bank; since they had occasion, in the course of their business, not only to have French letters read and answered in the same language, but at times to translate other foreign documents which came into their hands as bankers. Ev. 4629.

Mr. Peter O'Connor, a merchant in Sligo, deposed to the same effect. As to German particularly, he observed that "he thought an acquaintance with that language necessary; that they found much inconvenience from not having it; and that when our continental neighbours come into competition with us they are successful, when we fail for want of a knowledge of the habits and language of the country." Ev. 6726.

Mr. William Dunville, a merchant in Belfast, likewise gave strong testimony, both as to the great importance for commercial purposes of a competent knowledge of French and German, and the inadequate manner in which this want is supplied in the existing system of grammar school education. Ev. 10487.

We likewise received evidence from gentlemen belonging to various professions, some of them being directly engaged in tuition, all of whom agreed in pointing out the advantages which must accrue from an increased attention to the study of modern languages. We concur with them in thinking that the motives for such a change are to be found, not only in the special wants, important as these certainly are, incident to industrial pursuits, but in the very nature and essential requirements of modern and liberal education. Whether we regard the increased facilities for travelling, and the opportunities for an enlarged intercourse thus created, or consider the modern languages as furnishing the key to the treasures of modern literature, and not less to a knowledge of the history and structure of our own language, the study of them, and especially that of French and German, forms, in our opinion, an indispensable part of the education of an English gentleman. To the student also, the knowledge thus acquired is invaluable; for it constitutes one of the foundations of comparative philology. Ev. 2648, 3887, 5143, 6154, 6696, 10353.

We believe that the difficulties which are supposed to stand in the way of the introduction of modern languages into the general course pursued in grammar schools, are much over-rated; and we think that an impulse would be given to the more assiduous culture of this branch of education, if a prospect were held out of the introduction of one, at least, of the principal continental languages into the entrance examinations in our Universities.

Greek and Latin.

We are far from thinking lightly of the importance of classical pursuits; on the contrary, we consider that nothing can ever dispense with the study of the dead languages, as a part of intellectual discipline in a complete scheme of general education. These, as being the most perfectly inflected languages, furnish the best foundation for the acquisition of grammatical knowledge and logical training and culture. Notwithstanding, also, the serious moral imperfections of various kinds which pervade most of the writings of antiquity, and which render it so necessary that the duty of giving tuition in them should be intrusted to teachers of a superior class, we think that a knowledge of the master-

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pieces of ancient literature is to be desired, for the sake of their intrinsic value. Besides, the want of an acquaintance with them renders us unable to sympathize with the great minds that have been formed in the classical school, and incapacitates us for the due enjoyment of some of the noblest works in modern literature.

While, however, giving due weight to these studies, regarded both as the means for acquiring knowledge and as a discipline of the mental faculties, we are obliged to record our disapproval of the system of classical instruction hitherto pursued in grammar schools in Ireland, which, in our opinion, requires alteration in two important respects. In the first place, we think that the amount of time devoted to the study of the dead languages has been too great; and in the second, that the knowledge of them ordinarily attained is very imperfect, and quite disproportionate to the labour expended upon their acquisition. Our conviction on the first head is based on a consideration, not merely of the special demands of what is called a commercial education, but of those requisites which we conceive to be an essential part of a liberal and enlightened system of general education. Two errors are frequently met with, of an opposite kind indeed, but both equally prejudicial to the prevalence of sound educational views and aims: while some, imbued with ideas not only narrow but illusory, would limit the education of the commercial man to objects of direct and palpable utility; others disregard the resources for mental discipline furnished by the modern sciences and literature, and overlook the importance of these as branches of universal education.

Ev. 1222, 2653, 5364, &c. 9221, &c. 10346, &c. 10860, &c. 11279, 11819, &c.

We received at our public courts a good deal of evidence bearing on the practicability and usefulness of combining instruction in the English language, in the sciences, and in the classics, in such a manner that the general course might embrace all, without unduly abridging the special tuition needful for the destined careers of the pupils, whether professional or industrial. The testimony thus given has confirmed us in the belief that such a combination, though no doubt presenting difficulties well adapted to test the zeal and capacity of the master, is practicable, where the pecuniary resources of the school are sufficient; and that if judiciously effected, it leads to the better prosecution of each class of studies, and the elevation of the general standard of education throughout the community.

Annual Report and Course of Study in the High School of Edinburgh, during the Session ending July, 1855, pp. v. vi.

We also think that pupils intended for the pursuits of commerce or manufactures might with advantage carry on the study of Latin, provided they are not likely to be removed from school at too early a period. The study of this language is made indispensable in the high school of Edinburgh.

Ev. 3889, 11366, &c. 11388, &c.

As regards the second ground of objection to the existing state of grammar school education, we are of opinion that the system of teaching the classics now pursued is very imperfect. One great mistake made is the time spent in the attempt to compose Greek and Latin verse. This is, generally speaking, time wasted; for the exercise is useful only in the case of a few who are gifted with a peculiar aptitude, while all others are painfully conscious that they are labouring in vain. The same observation does not, of course, apply to Greek and Latin prose; the practice of composing in which is essential to the acquisition of sound classical scholarship. We must note as another defect, the insufficient attention paid to oral instruction, and to the practice of speaking the dead languages, an exercise which is as important in relation to them as to the modern languages. We also think that far too much time is devoted to the attempt to render young scholars familiar with the notes of commentators; a kind of knowledge that is easily forgotten, and consumes the hours which would be better spent in acquiring a facility of reading classical authors, and a more general familiarity with ancient literature and life.

Geography.

We have followed the usual arrangement in classifying geography under the head of literary rather than of scientific studies, and as one, therefore, which falls under the care of the English master. It is essential, however, that the teacher's qualifications should be of a much higher order than is generally sought for; as the range of knowledge and reflection required to enable him to do justice to this subject is very considerable, and embraces alike literary and scientific acquirements of a superior kind. The inefficient system of instruction in geography which now prevails is characterised by nothing more than by the practice of teaching merely by rote, and from books. A competent master, on the contrary, is thoroughly conversant with his subject, and carries all the principles and the main features of it in his head. There are, we think, few branches of

education in which the method of oral instruction is of more importance, whether for the teacher or the pupil. On this head we desire to quote the interesting passage in which Mr. Horace Mann describes a lesson in geography which he witnessed in a Prussian school:—

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Report of an Educational Tour in Germany, France, &c. by Horace Mann, p. 104.

"I will describe, as exactly as I am able, a lesson which I heard given to a class a little advanced beyond the elements, remarking, that though I heard many lessons given on the same plan, none of them were signalized by the rapidity and effect of the one I am about to describe.

"The teacher stood by the blackboard, with the chalk in his hand. After casting his eye over the class, to see that all were ready, he struck at the middle of the board. With a rapidity of hand, which my eye could hardly follow, he made a series of those short divergent lines, or shadings, employed by map-engravers, to represent a chain of mountains. He had scarcely turned an angle, or shot off a spur, when the scholars began to cry out, Carpathian Mountains, Hungary; Black Forest Mountains, Wurtemberg; Giants' Mountains (Riesen-Gebirge), Silesia; Metallic Mountains (Erz-Gebirge), Pine Mountains (Fichtel-Gebirge), Central Mountains (Mittel-Gebirge), Bohemia, &c. &c.

"In less than half a minute, the ridge of that grand central elevation, which separates the waters that flow north-west into the German Ocean from those that flow north into the Baltic, and south-east into the Black Sea, was presented to view, executed almost as beautifully as an engraving. A dozen crinkling strokes, made in the twinkling of an eye, represented the head waters of the great rivers which flow in different directions from that mountainous range; while the children, almost as eager and excited as though they had actually seen the torrents dashing down the mountain sides, cried out, Danube, Elbe, Vistula, Oder, &c. The next moment I heard a succession of small strokes or taps, so rapid as to be almost indistinguishable, and hardly had my eye time to discern a large number of dots made along the margins of the rivers, when the shouts of Lintz, Vienna, Prague, Dresden, Berlin, &c., struck my ear. At this point in the exercise, the spot which had been occupied on the blackboard was nearly a circle, of which the starting point, or place where the teacher first began, was the centre; but now a few additional strokes around the circumference of the incipient continent, extended the mountain ranges outwards towards the plains, the children responding the names of the countries in which they respectively lay. With a few more flourishes, the rivers flowed onwards towards their several terminations; and, by another succession of dots, new cities sprang up along their banks. By this time the children had become as much excited as though they had been present at a world-making. They rose in their seats, they flung out both hands, their eyes kindled, and their voices became almost vociferous, as they cried out the names of the different places, which, under the magic of the teacher's crayon, rose into view. Within ten minutes from the commencement of the lesson, there stood upon the blackboard a beautiful map of Germany, with its mountains, principal rivers, and cities; the coast of the German Ocean, of the Baltic, and the Black Seas; and all so accurately proportioned, that I think only slight errors would have been found, had it been subjected to the test of a scale of miles. A part of this time was taken up in correcting a few mistakes of the pupils; for the teacher's mind seemed to be in his ear as well as in his hand; and, notwithstanding the astonishing celerity of his movements, he detected erroneous answers, and turned round to correct them. The rest of the recitation consisted in questions and answers respecting productions, climate, soil, animals, &c. &c."

It is very important that geographical instruction should be addressed as much as possible to the eye. Even the sense of touch may be made a valuable adjunct to the visual organ in teaching geography. For younger pupils, especially, "dissected maps" are extremely useful, since they not only exercise memory, but ingenuity; and the sight and handling of the separate pieces impress on the child's mind a distinct conception of the various parts, their form, size, and relative position, with a degree of vividness which can be attained in no other way. The pupils should acquire the power of accurately representing to their own minds the outlines of various countries and the relative position of their chief features. This is much facilitated by the use of outline maps, and by the habit of map-drawing, a practice which, however, in some of the schools of the Incorporated Society, we thought was pursued to excess, and in such a manner as to occasion a wasteful expenditure of time and eyesight. We

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think that the principle of the method of teaching writing, which we have noticed with commendation under that head, might, with a slight modification, be advantageously employed, in relation to this department, for the tuition of the more advanced pupil. After drawing from memory the country selected, with its principal subdivisions and features, the scholar, having his own design set before him, might trace the outlines of the same region on transparent paper, placed upon a map prepared for that purpose.

A knowledge of the geography of Great Britain and Ireland, and of our principal colonies and dependencies, is obviously of primary importance, yet, we regret to say, that its study is greatly neglected in grammar schools. We found, in some instances, that pupils who possessed a tolerable knowledge of the geography of Palestine were wholly unacquainted with that of Ireland. The instruction given should embrace not only the elements of descriptive and physical, but also those of commercial and political geography. As regards the teaching of all these branches, and especially of the latter ones, we have noticed in many schools a great deficiency. An intelligent instructor might make his geography lessons peculiarly interesting to his pupils by blending with them some information as to varieties of climate, the distribution of vegetable productions and animals, and the different races of mankind. From physical geography he might pass to geology and mineralogy, and illustrate what he taught of the general conformation of the earth's surface by reference to the climate, the plants, the animals, and the minerals of the country in which his school was situate. The bearings, too, of the knowledge thus acquired upon the history of mankind, and generally the relations between the physical and the moral worlds, might in like manner be pointed out and illustrated. The interest of the pupil might also be engaged by references to the history of geographical discovery, and the principal narratives of travel by land and sea; and the attention of the more advanced scholars would be usefully directed to cotemporary aims and efforts of a like nature, and to a consideration of their connexion with, and probable influence on, the progress of society. The instruction of a general kind thus interwoven with the simpler elements of geography is not only valuable and interesting in itself, but tends to impress the latter more vividly on the mind.

Ev. 953.

The foregoing considerations further illustrate the vital truth that successful tuition in those branches of an English education, which we deem to be of universal importance, can only be secured by obtaining the services of superior men. The instruction given by such teachers, even when only elementary, is the reverse of superficial; and the influence they exercise on their pupils draws out feelings of confidence and respect which, apart from their direct moral value, furnish the best incentives to present acquisition, and the surest foundation for independent progress.

History.

We have rarely found history taught in the primary schools. English history is, we think, much neglected in the grammar schools, and Irish history is entirely so. The opinion expressed by your Majesty's Civil Service Commissioners as to the great deficiencies in this department of education among all classes corresponds with our own impressions. We feel that the difficulty of teaching mediæval and modern history in mixed schools is considerable; but we think that the evils arising from its total exclusion greatly outweigh the disadvantages which may arise from making it a part of the general school-course. The force of the objection, too, must vary with the locality and circumstances of the school, and may occasionally be diminished by paying a due attention to these in the choice of the head master or of his assistants.

Second Report, C.S. Commissioners, pp. v. vi.

In the primary schools of Germany the elementary principles of jurisprudence form part of the regular course. We see no reason why our own youth should not learn the general nature of the laws and constitution under which their country is governed.

We have already suggested the propriety of introducing historical references, as part of the lessons on geography. We think that the instruction directly given in history should be accompanied by a constant reference to maps, regarding this practice as not only essential to the right understanding of the subject, but as furnishing a powerful stimulant to the attention and interest of the pupils. By this means the great events which have characterized the life of nations, and form the land-marks of social progress, being presented as images

and not as abstract signs only, become indelibly fixed in the mind. Maps expressly adapted for this purpose, and constructed so as to represent in a connected series, the principal historical epochs, have been published of late years. Besides the large and expensive works of Spruner, we may refer to an admirable school atlas of this kind, published under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Brewer. It would, we think, be very desirable that school maps of this nature, drawn on a large scale, should be habitually used in connexion with the history lesson. Such maps, in addition to their value as localizing events, and presenting vividly to the mind the geographical and political consequences of the facts narrated, furnish an effectual means of impressing on the memory the principal dates of the portions of history selected for study. Chronology, which if taught, as it too commonly is, as a series of unconnected dates, is dry and easily forgotten, becomes not only intelligible, but interesting, when associated with history and geography, and applied to illustrate the succession of events, their contemporaneous bearings, and their mutual connexion.

Scientific Instruction.

Arithmetic.

Having now concluded our observations on the departments of education which are chiefly or exclusively literary, we turn to those that are essentially scientific. Among these arithmetic deserves the foremost place, both on account of its great utility to persons in every position in society, and as furnishing, when properly taught, a most valuable means of mental discipline. Ev. 4641.
The practice too generally prevails, and more especially so in the grammar schools, of intrusting this branch to persons of inferior mathematical attainments. We regard this as a great mistake; for a mechanical facility of working sums, imparted by masters possessing no scientific power themselves, is, even for practical purposes, of comparatively little value. To this cause we mainly ascribe that absence of a sound instruction in the principles on which arithmetical rules and operations are based, which we had frequent occasion to remark in the schools we visited, and which was also observed by our Assistant Commis- Ev. 4983.
sioners in the schools that came under their inspection. In some schools we even found an ignorance of numeration, a subject which, however, receives due attention in the schools of the Christian Brothers, and in those under the National Board.
Mental arithmetic also is very important, for its exercise directs the teacher's Ev. 5315.
attention to oral instruction in opposition to mere routine book learning, and trains the pupils to a valuable habit. The natural aptitude for arithmetic varies very much in different individuals, and we remarked with regret in some of the best schools a neglect of the less intelligent pupils when taught simultaneously in a class with others possessing greater ability.

It would be desirable to convey to the pupils a practical acquaintance with existing and even proposed systems of weights, measures, and moneys. Knowledge of this kind has been made a prominent part in the programme of instruction in the French schools, as affording the best means of making the people familiar with the decimal system which is not even yet universally adopted in France, owing to the ignorance and prejudices of the uninstructed. In our own country the difficulties attending a reform of coins, weights, and measures, will have been greatly diminished in consequence of the spread of education amongst the poorer classes.

Geometry, Algebra, and Trigonometry.

The value of these sciences as means of intellectual discipline has never been doubted; and the circumstance that mathematical talent is commonly met with in Ireland, furnishes an additional reason for their cultivation in our schools. On the occasion of our visiting the Christian Brothers' School at Tralee, an observation was made to us by the teachers there, which furnishes a proof of the use of geometry as a part of mental discipline. They stated that their scholars after commencing it usually made much more rapid progress in all their other studies. Plane geometry is, we think, generally well taught, but the instruction in algebra is less efficient, and the pupils are not sufficiently trained in the use of logarithmic tables. Solid geometry also, though attended to in many of the primary schools, is neglected in the grammar schools. The practice of computing numerical examples, if judiciously employed, is valuable, and ought to be more generally adopted. But, as it may happen that pupils who have

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mastered the difficulties of mere calculation are often at fault in the solution of problems, for want of knowing what calculations they must actually make, we desire to point the attention of teachers to the primary importance of training their pupils to apply general principles.

It would be, no doubt, very desirable, if it were practicable, to give the pupil some familiarity with the great inventions of modern mathematical science, algebraic geometry, and the differential calculus. But, as a superficial knowledge of them is quite unprofitable, and as the extent to which instruction in the higher mathematics, if given at all, can be carried, must vary greatly, not only with the mental aptitude of the pupil, but with his practical destination, and the amount of time which he can devote to these subjects; we are not disposed to recommend the general introduction of them into the grammar school course. We think, however, that as sounder methods of tuition are introduced, under the influence of superior teachers, more could be done in this way than is generally supposed; and we are of opinion that great room for such improvements in the method of instruction exists in this department, no less than in that of classics. The importance of oral instruction as contra-distinguished from mere book-learning is equally great in both.

The practice of "cramming," and the undue importance often given to particular mathematical deductions committed to memory, and frequently exercising no other faculty, are greatly to be regretted in the present system of education. They impede the acquisition of a sound knowledge of general principles, and interfere with that mental discipline, the attainment of which is the main object of these studies.

Astronomy and the Use of the Globes.

We attach very great importance to the study of astronomy, or celestial physics, as a fundamental branch of general scientific instruction, and a powerful instrument of mental discipline. It is so, both as it furnishes the simplest means of familiarizing the mind with the application of abstract mathematical truths to the concrete realities of the external world, and also as it exemplifies the operation of general laws, and the certainty of that prevision which at once constitutes the practical end and the principal test of real science. It, therefore, combines in a high degree the conditions of sound education. The degree to which these benefits can be secured must, no doubt, greatly depend upon the extent to which a proper foundation has been laid in mathematical knowledge. A certain familiarity with geometrical conceptions is indispensable as a preliminary even to the most elementary study of astronomical phenomena; and at every stage, the teaching ought to stop short so soon as it becomes superficial, in consequence of the insufficiency of the pupil's mathematical preparation. Due attention to this will be best secured by employing teachers who are not merely well acquainted with the results of astronomical science, but familiar with its philosophical principles. Having regard to such limitations, we think that the elementary principles of Astronomy ought to be taught in all, even in primary schools. The use of the globes, and also, where this is practicable, the observation of the heavens, and the practical employment of astronomical instruments, would be very desirable, and might be rendered the means not only of imparting much valuable instruction, but of awakening strong and elevating interests in the minds of the pupils. The intelligence of more advanced scholars should be still further called forth, by indicating the connexion which subsists between the progress of astronomical knowledge and that of the other sciences. An enlightened teacher might also point out its bearings on important social events, such as the successive reformations of the calendar, and the progress of geographical discovery.

Natural Philosophy and Chemistry.

A certain amount of instruction in mechanics, and other branches of natural philosophy, can be conveyed by means of models and diagrams, even to those who have but little knowledge of mathematics; and this, though no doubt of a very elementary character, is valuable, and might, we think, be given even in primary schools. Considerable difficulties exist as to including experimental physics and chemistry in the course of grammar schools; but having regard to their importance as departments of general education, and also to the fact that an acquaintance with them is of increasing utility in the various branches of industry, and, moreover, forms one of the tests proposed in examinations for certain departments of the public service, we think that efforts should be made to

give instruction in these subjects to the most advanced classes, and that this might be successfully done where the pupils remain sufficiently long at school. Lectures, when only occasional, are of little use as a means of scientific instruction; but as sources of intelligent recreation they might be introduced with some good results. The logical value of the physical sciences, which are mainly founded on observation and experiment, is very considerable, since they furnish new and important types of reasoning, and call into play faculties which are not adequately exercised by pure mathematics, or even by astronomy. This is particularly the case with regard to chemistry, where the novelty of the experiments, and the wonderful results obtainable from them, are calculated to interest the mind in a very high degree.

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Ev. 3882, 6740, 9459, 10335, 10487.

We think that these departments of scientific education have not hitherto received, in our general school-system, that attention which is due to their eminent utility, understanding that term in its highest sense. The causes which we shall presently notice as having prevented instruction from being given in the natural, have, no doubt, extensively operated with reference to the experimental sciences; and, in addition to them, we may mention the general deficiency in schools of collections of models and instruments essential for illustrating the fundamental laws of mechanics, optics, and the other physical sciences; also of laboratories sufficiently well furnished for the purposes of elementary instruction in chemistry. These could, we believe, be provided without incurring any great expense. We think it right to notice the Royal Belfast Academical Institution as forming an exception to the above remark, for we observed there, with pleasure, the existence of an apparatus such as we have referred to.

Physiology and Natural History.

The comparatively recent growth of the natural sciences, combined with the high place which mathematical and philological studies have so long maintained in the public estimation, sufficiently accounts for the almost universal exclusion of the former from our system of education. The causes which necessitated this exclusion have, however, in our day, been in great part removed, and are capable of being so to a still greater degree; while the arguments often alleged in justification of its continuance appear to us to admit of being satisfactorily answered. The general theory of the structure and functions of organized existence, as manifested in vegetable and animal life, is established on a solid basis; and already books can be procured of a nature sufficiently elementary to form the ground-work of instruction in schools. The same observation applies to natural history. Oral instruction, however, is here indispensable, and the difficulty of finding competent teachers is one that must be admitted to exist at present, though it is capable of being gradually diminished and ultimately removed. It must be admitted that a thoroughly scientific instruction in these branches cannot be given, until a sufficient foundation has been laid for their study in a knowledge of the experimental sciences and chemistry; and, in order to accomplish this, it is necessary that the pupil should remain at school up to a somewhat advanced period. Still, even as a source of recreation, combining, if judiciously conducted, both physical exercise and mental occupation, the acquisition of a knowledge of the natural sciences, though elementary only, would be valuable; and the experience furnished by some schools, both grammar schools and National Model Schools, proves the practicability of securing these advantages without detriment to other studies. In the French normal schools the pupils are instructed in these subjects; and it is also worthy of remark, that wherever the locality admits of its being done, they are exercised in the rearing of esculent vegetables, and in the pruning and grafting of trees. Opportunities for obtaining practical knowledge of this latter kind are, we think, valuable, but they are not afforded in many schools in Ireland. With the exception of the Gwyn Institution at Londonderry, the Farra and Primrose Grange Institutions, under the Incorporated Society, we met with scarcely any instances of systematic instruction in horticulture, which, apart from any material utility, would be desirable as a means of healthful recreation, and might often prove a source of domestic enjoyment.

Ev. 10356, &c. 10511, &c.

We think that a school system which does not include instruction in the experimental and natural sciences, is incomplete, and falls, in point both of information and of mental discipline, below the just standard of a sound modern education. The perceptive powers are peculiarly alive in the young; and natural

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history, if properly taught, not by rote from books, but by a person who can take the pupils into the fields and distinguish the different plants and animals, is a study peculiarly congenial to them. Mr. Robert Patterson, of Belfast, in his pamphlet "On the Study of Natural History as a branch of general education in Schools and Colleges," has also remarked that it powerfully tends to form prompt and accurate habits of observation, which cannot be said to be adequately cultivated by the ordinary system of tuition. The same writer also points out the efficacy of such pursuits in stimulating the power of the imagination in the young by giving them constant and healthful objects. The stores of practical knowledge thus laid up in early youth would not only contribute to the awakening and discipline of important faculties, but would serve as the foundation for that scientific study of the principles of the natural sciences which must be reserved for later years. Without such previous training the philosophical teacher of biology and natural history must often be embarrassed by the difficulty of avoiding, on the one hand, mere specialities, and on the other, vague generalities. At every stage of education, but especially at the earliest, the relaxation afforded by these subjects, judiciously introduced, so far from interfering with severe studies, sends the pupil back to them with refreshed and reinvigorated powers. We have reason to regard the activity of the observing faculties as a prominent feature of the human mind in the early stages of its development; and if we find at present among young men, commonly supposed to be well educated, very little knowledge of the natural sciences, and few manifestations of a capacity or disposition for these pursuits, it would be a mistake to suppose that such a taste is an uncommon gift. On the contrary, almost all children are inclined to observe external objects with interest, and when trained by philosophical instructors show a surprising familiarity with the classifications of natural history. We are, therefore, led to ascribe the circumstance that so few persons manifest these tastes in later life to the exclusive character of our school systems, in which scarcely any studies except those of language and mathematics are allowed to hold an honourable place.

Ev. 10359, 10511.

Ev. 10505.

Ev. 10511, 11339.

Ev. 10358, 10506.

Ev. 10359.

In order, however, duly to appreciate the importance of these studies as part of an enlightened scheme of education, it is necessary also to take into account their logical efficacy, and to consider them as furnishing the fit, and, in truth, the only means of evoking and disciplining various faculties, distinct from, and superior to, those of observation. The study of grammar and mathematics exercises, no doubt, our reasoning faculties in certain ways; but inductive habits, the powers of discriminating, classifying, and generalizing, can only be formed in the school of nature and experiment. These are not merely valuable for their own sake, but as preparing the mind for that investigation of causes which is philosophy. The mere familiarity with collections arranged in obedience to certain definite principles, and still more the practice of making such collections, tends to form many valuable habits, and particularly to enable the student to realize to his mind the relation which exists between external arrangement and mental order, and the manner in which the one facilitates the other. A real insight into the great principles of inductive philosophy can only be obtained through an acquaintance with its leading results; and the discipline thus acquired, under a philosophic teacher, must prove as valuable to the practical man as to the professed theorist. Bishop Butler has pointed out with admirable sagacity the errors which result from the habit of regarding mathematical reasonings as alone capable of furnishing tests of truth; and the contracted habits of thought engendered by a too exclusive familiarity with one logical type, constitute the intellectual sources of much, in relation both to theory and practice, that impedes the progress of society. But the mischief does not stop here, for, in addition to the narrowness thus produced, the consequence of refusing to give the experimental and natural sciences their due place in the system of general education is, that men are debarred from a kind of logical training, which is exclusively the result of the gradual development of these sciences, and has a close relation with habits of thought and reasoning most important in relation to the practical exigencies of social life. In short, the propriety of including the experimental and natural sciences in the general system of education rests on two grounds: first, that their study forms the best corrective of the one-sidedness apt to be contracted by a too exclusive devotion to mathematics; and secondly, that a familiarity with these principles and methods is essential to the formation of many important mental habits. As an illustration of our meaning, we may observe, that even the

Ev. 10356, 10505.

study of the physical sciences or of chemistry does not supply the place of the training afforded by the philosophical culture of the natural sciences; for in the former, experiment—that is to say, the actual elimination of all phenomena but those which are the subjects of investigation—predominates; whereas, in the latter, such a process is, owing to the complication of the phenomena, and other causes, generally speaking, impossible. Now, the inquiries presented by the phenomena of social life resemble the problems of vegetable and animal life much more closely than they do those of inorganic existence; and hence the importance of familiarizing the mind with the characteristic methods which have gradually led to the solution of the former.

The principle which requires us to embody, as far as may be practicable, in the general scheme of education, the results of modern science, applies with still greater force to the methods, by following which these results have been arrived at. The mental discipline thus enforced, and the habits thus acquired, even more than the information gained, must prove most valuable to the practical man, while they would tend to increase his usefulness and dignity as a member of society.

Mr. Patterson, in his evidence given before us at Belfast, also pointed out the important influence which a cultivation of the natural sciences exercises on the formation of the taste. He observed:—"No great improvement in the arts of design can be looked for, until the tastes of both producers and consumers shall have been cultivated by a thorough acquaintance with the leading forms of animal and vegetable life, and the laws of their development." Neither can it be doubted, that the neglect of sanitary laws arises, in part, from the ignorance which prevails with respect to the very elements of physiology. Until a knowledge of its fundamental laws is generally diffused, it is vain to expect an intelligent co-operation on the part of the public in measures of general sanitary reform; or even the observance of those precautions which are essential to the health of the individual. Ev. 10502.

The pursuit of natural history is also valuable as a recreation, which enables the pupils to combine mental improvement with physical exercise. Mr. Patterson, in his evidence, observed that this study is very agreeable to the pupils. The subjects which it brings under their notice are intrinsically interesting, and many of the observations are such as they are themselves able to verify. Mr. Patterson mentioned the following fact, which strongly illustrates this view. He said:—"It came to my knowledge, on one occasion, that the study of zoology was introduced into a school in England; the boys took great delight in it; and the master himself was interested in it. It was the great thing the boys took pleasure in; but after a time the parents came forward and said they were unwilling the boys should have their time thus occupied: they would rather have it differently employed. The master of the school said to the boys, he regretted the circumstance, but, of course, it must be given up. In a few days after that, the master was waited upon by a deputation of the boys to say, that if he would be so good as to teach them, they would be very glad to come half-an-hour earlier, so that they might continue their zoological studies without interference with ordinary school-hours. When we know the value boys attach to half-an-hour of play, it shows what an interest these studies had for them." Ev. 10511.

Against the introduction of these sciences into a school course, it is commonly objected that school-boys have many other subjects to attend to, a knowledge of which is more useful than a superficial instruction in those departments. A satisfactory answer to this objection was, we think, given by the head master of the Belfast Academy—the Rev. Reuben John Bryce—whose testimony is the more valuable as it is the result of his own experience of the tuition of the natural sciences. He said:—"In the first place, I do not think it is true that the instruction in these departments must be superficial. I think a great deal of very valuable information may be acquired before boys come to the years at which heavier studies press upon their attention. In the second place, the amount of knowledge acquired is not the object; it is the mental discipline which constitutes the great improvement in education. At the present day, there is a cry for communicating knowledge that will be valuable. That, in my opinion, is not the object of education at all; its object is to enable a boy, when he becomes a man, to use whatever knowledge may be presented to him in a rational and intelligent manner, to acquire habits of thought and reasoning." Ev. 10360.

It might be supposed that considerable expense must be incurred in carrying on a system of instruction in these departments. The experience of the same

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intelligent master has, however, enabled him to prove that a useful museum may be collected at a very moderate expense. The boys of the Belfast Academy formed themselves into a Natural History Society; they subscribed money for the purchase of some specimens, and collected a great many more in the course of geological and botanical excursions, made in company with their teacher. The nucleus of a museum was thus formed, which was subsequently increased in the same way, and also by means of donations. The evidence of Mr. Patterson on this head was to the same effect.

Ev. 10364.

Ev. 10512.

The same gentleman also expressed to us his conviction, that school instruction in the natural sciences might be given which, even when elementary, would not be superficial; adding, however, that "the great difficulty would be to find competent teachers." This, no doubt, does exist, but, as we have already pointed out, it affects tuition not only in these departments, but in most of the branches already recognised as indispensable. We do not, therefore, regard the objection as indicating insuperable obstacles, but only such as may be temporarily met by judicious arrangements; while the complete victory over them must be secured by an increasing sense of the importance of such studies in the public, and an augmented attention to them on the part of the Universities.

Ev. 10513.

PRACTICAL TRAINING.

By this we mean that species of intellectual discipline which has a direct bearing on the actual business of life. We prefer the above term to that of "industrial instruction," for two reasons—first, because the former points attention not only to the requirements of commercial and industrial pursuits, but to the requisites for the performance of many important social duties, the knowledge of which is essential to the man and the citizen; and secondly, because we think that the class of instruction which may be called special, or industrial, should not be allowed to usurp the place of, or encroach upon, the more important elements of a sound general education. It is especially necessary to bear this in mind, having regard to the early age at which boys are in general withdrawn from school, and we must add the irregular attendance of pupils of the poorer classes. We may also observe that a certain amount of general intellectual training seems to be necessary, in order to awaken the desire for special instruction. But, apart from these circumstances, we should make it our first object to teach the pupils, while young, those things which, unless learnt at that period, will not, except in rare instances, be learnt in later life; and, especially, to give them a good moral and intellectual training. The acquisition of the habits thus formed is invaluable, even for the purposes of trade, since the boy whose intelligence has been well and systematically developed, readily acquires from actual apprenticeship, a knowledge of the business to which he is obliged to resort as his means of livelihood. In all endeavours too, to impart special or industrial instruction, there is great danger of such efforts being misdirected and proving eventually useless, the boys being taught trades which they cannot afterwards pursue with profit. Thus, for example, it was part of the original scheme of the Pococke institution, that instruction should be given to the pupils in hand-loom weaving, but experience has led to the discontinuance of such teaching. There are, however, certain practical branches, the scientific character and general utility of which render it, in our opinion, desirable that they should form part of the education of all classes, while the extent to which they may be pursued should depend on the intended destination of the pupil. These are, book-keeping, mensuration, and drawing, subjects which may pre-eminently be classed among the scientific arts.

Ev. 6142.

Vide 217, *infra*.

There is, we apprehend, little reason to doubt that a sound and available knowledge of every art can be acquired only by the practice of it; and that while, moreover, each kind of art must vary greatly in its details from every other, and even from itself at various times and under different circumstances, the scientific principles on which it directly reposes are generally few, simple, and easily deducible from the abstract laws that constitute the correlative science or sciences. Hence, the paramount importance of laying the foundation of all education in a sound and familiar knowledge of these fundamental laws. Still, it is quite possible that such knowledge may be satisfactorily acquired, and yet that the pupil may never be made acquainted with the intermediate principles, essentially practical in their aim, yet scientific in their nature, on which the art directly reposes. Thus, the power of using the globes, so important both in an

intellectual and practical point of view, presupposes a certain amount of mathematical and astronomical training; yet our present school and University systems show too plainly that a high degree of familiarity with the latter may coexist with great ignorance of the former. These remarks apply to all scientific instruction; the imparting of which can, we think, be rendered, in every way, much more efficacious where the teacher judiciously intermingles views of the relations between science and art. But they bear with peculiar force on the above three arts, both on account of their great practical utility, and because their principles are easily deducible from those branches of mathematics which may be introduced into the most elementary course. We shall presently make some observations on each of them, considered as forming part of the general system of education.

As regards the practical instruction of girls, everything which is essential to the due performance of their domestic duties, according to their station in society, should, we think, be considered as part of their general education; and on this, as well as on other grounds, plain work must be regarded as indispensable. In some girls' schools, the amount of time devoted to fancy work is altogether excessive. A shortsighted anxiety to furnish what is called "industrial instruction," leads its promoters to overlook the essential parts of a sound education for women, to the great detriment of their intellectual and moral culture, and the consequent injury of society. In charity boarding-schools for girls, all the pupils ought, in turn, to be required to perform the various household tasks. This system is pursued in the Girls' Boarding-schools under the Incorporated Society. To some extent, at all events, it might also be followed in boarding-schools for boys of the poorer class.

Where opportunities of doing so present themselves, gardening, carpentry, or masonry, being healthful and interesting occupations, might, we think, be advantageously taught to some of the pupils as a matter of recreation and a reward for good conduct. Ev. 16615, &c.

Book-keeping.

The principles of book-keeping, drawn partly from those of arithmetic, and partly from a consideration of the practical ends intended to be secured, are of a scientific character. The insufficient appreciation of this truth, as yet so prevalent, manifests itself in our educational system in two ways: on the one hand, book-keeping is, in some schools, taught in a way so purely mechanical as to produce little benefit; while in others it is wholly neglected, or purposely rejected, as being merely a matter of detail, and, therefore, not requiring any intellectual training previous to entering upon its practice. Thus, the Rev. Mr. Guillemard, in his observations on the "difficulties of combining commercial and grammar school education," expresses his disbelief "that there is any intrinsic value whatever in what is called the commercial element "including book-keeping" as a training for mercantile pursuits," and describes it as "a mechanical preparation for the shop or the counting-house." From this view we must altogether dissent, believing, as we do, for the reasons already stated, that instruction in the principles of this subject, and in some of their leading applications, may be advantageously given in schools. Neither is its utility confined, as Mr. Guillemard seems to suppose, to persons destined for commercial careers. There is no rank of life in which such knowledge may not be useful. It is on every account desirable that all persons should learn how to keep accounts by double entry; and this knowledge is essential for the right performance of all those offices of private or public trust, and there are many such, which involve the keeping or auditing of accounts. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 305.

We may observe that one good manual of book-keeping has been published by your Majesty's Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, and another as part of Chambers' Educational Course. This branch has been successfully taught in the schools of the Christian Brothers in the city of Cork, to such pupils as are seeking to qualify themselves for the situation of clerks. Ev. 1278.

Mensuration.

Besides furnishing, when judiciously employed, a valuable means of impressing on the youthful mind the principles of geometry and trigonometry, mensuration has, we think, great practical utility. In various trades it is essential, and there are few situations in life where a knowledge at least of its elements may not be valuable. The Christian Brothers have found that there is a considerable demand for instruction of this kind; fifty-nine boys were learning it under them Ev. 1307.

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in Cork. We think that it is well taught in their schools, and also in some of those under the National Board of Education in Ireland.

Drawing.

As a branch of practical instruction we think drawing is of much importance; and deserves to have a place in the system of general education. We have already pointed out the utility of free-hand drawing in learning the art of writing. Geometrical drawing, besides its special value in the mechanical and other arts, is useful as a discipline of neatness and exactitude. Persons of every class in society would find it advantageous to be able to make even a rough drawing of any object to a given scale, while the education of the eye and taste, thus acquired, cultivates a perception of the beautiful in nature and in art. Besides these benefits of a general nature, such a culture of the eye and taste is valuable to persons employed as assistants or buyers in various branches of trade.

Vide p. 199, *supra*.

Drawing has been successfully taught by the Christian Brothers in their school in Peacock-lane, in Cork; where, at the period when we held our public Court in that city, forty-nine boys were instructed in architectural and mechanical drawing, and in the art of designing. It was stated to us by Mr. Duggan, one of the teachers in that school, that the pupils so taught were, generally speaking, the children of mechanics, who had shown an ability for drawing. These receive instruction intended to fit them for trades; learning geometry, mechanics, mensuration, and drawing. He also expressed his opinion that the drawing lessons did not occupy an unreasonable portion of the school hours; and mentioned that the boys thus instructed had been able to turn their proficiency in drawing to account.

Ev. 1263.
Ev. 1264.
Ev. 1278, 1297.
Ev. 1297, 1300, 1356.

This school was supplied with requisites in the way of casts, models, drawings, and prints, by means of a grant of £50 from the Corporation of Cork, which was continued during four years, and was then withdrawn only because the Corporation were advised that such an application of their funds was illegal. This drawing school was visited by Mr. Cole, who expressed his approval of the system of instruction pursued there, and directed that specimens of each kind of drawing executed by the boys should be sent to Marlborough House.

Ev. 1301-2, 1356.
Ev. 1266, 1356.

We may also mention that Mr. Flynn, in a report presented to the Governors of the Blue Coat Hospital some years ago, recommended the introduction of drawing into the school course.

Ev. 22571.

Navigation.

Although the remarks we have made with respect to the scientific character of the above three arts are equally applicable to that of Navigation, it does not appear to us that the latter possesses the same claims for admission into the general scheme of intermediate education as the former. Some notions on the subject might be advantageously introduced into the teaching of spherical trigonometry and astronomy, and in connexion with the use of the globes; but as a distinct department, we would confine tuition in it to schools situate in or near sea-ports. In these, and especially in such of them as are the principal resorts of commerce, instruction in navigation would be very valuable, and, in our opinion, ought to be given to all pupils who are destined for a seafaring life. This branch is at present seldom taught in Ireland; but we must mention Foyle College as offering an honorable exception to this remark.

Ev. 10878.

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL DISCIPLINE.

The paramount importance of a sound religious and moral discipline as the basis of education might seem to require a more lengthened examination of this subject than we here propose to undertake. We dispense, however, with the discussion of this question, because we regard it as almost an undisputed one. We fully admit the principle, but we insist upon the propriety of securing due facilities for its application in such ways as are consistent with a regard to parental authority and responsibility, and the maintenance of the rights of conscience. We also think it right to declare our belief in the possibility of separating the courses of secular and religious instruction so far as to enable scholars of different religious denominations to receive instruction of the former kind in the same school, without compromise of opinions or risk of offence.

It is our conviction that one of the chief recommendations of day schools, and one of the great advantages which they possess over boarding schools, consists in the facilities which the former afford for combining home instruc-

tion in religious and moral principles with school instruction of a purely secular nature. In addition to the special difficulties which, with reference to this subject, attend a system of mixed education when conducted in boarding schools, we think that the diminished sense of responsibility, as to religious instruction, which almost inevitably results from the removal of the pupil out of the domestic sphere, must act injuriously both on the parents and the children. The regular visitation of the pupils by the clergy of their respective denominations, according to the wishes of their parents, appears to furnish the best practical mode of solving this difficulty, compatible with a successful system of mixed education in boarding schools. Apart, however, from direct instruction on these points, it cannot, we think, be doubted that much may be done by competent teachers towards imbuing the youth of both sexes with a high sense of moral and religious responsibility, and inspiring them with an elevated tone of feeling and character. To do this in the daily course of secular instruction requires qualities which are not easily met with; and this consideration gives additional weight to the view we have already insisted on, as to the great moment of securing the services of teachers superior by nature, as well as in point of acquirement.

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Ev. 6630, &c. 6721, &c. 6788–94.

Scriptural Instruction.

We must observe that in many primary schools we found the instruction given in the Scriptures defective, in consequence of the imperfect knowledge possessed by the pupils of the meaning of the commonest English words. Such a state of things indicates great inattention to the elementary branches of education, and is of course incompatible with an intelligent perusal of Holy Writ.

Discipline.

In schools where the pupils are well taught, and due provision is made for their recreation, it will be found that there is the least necessity for resorting to corporal punishment. A bad master thinks to make up by severity for his ignorance of the art of teaching.

We believe that in well-managed schools such punishments as the deprivation of privileges, exclusion from the play ground, occasional confinement, extra tasks, and a temporary withdrawal of the teacher's favour, are sufficiently efficacious, except in cases of extreme misbehaviour, where it may be necessary to resort to severe chastisement, or even to expulsion from the school. The rarity of corporal punishment adds considerably to its effect, both upon the individual who undergoes it, and upon all the rest of the school. We have to notice a general neglect on the part of masters to record the infliction of flogging in the report book of the school. This rule ought to be rigidly adhered to, in order that the persons charged with the duty of superintending the management of the school may have the assurance that no undue severity has been resorted to by the master.

Ev. 1343, 13061.

The schoolmaster, in proportion as he is a good teacher and an exemplary man, will be found to govern his pupils by eliciting their affections and respect rather than by the principle of fear. The influence which he thus acquires over the pupils becomes of itself the most powerful means of stimulating their intellectual efforts, and, at the same time, of cultivating their moral nature and forming their character. Though far inferior to such means, both in dignity and real efficacy, the system of giving prizes, if used with judgment and moderation, and based on periodical examinations, may, we think, be advantageously employed, and a fund for this purpose should exist in connexion with all endowed schools. The obtaining of the reward should, however, depend, not merely on the answering of the pupil at the special examination, but also, to a considerable extent, on his general progress and conduct, as evidenced by the daily judgment-book, during the previous period, to this extent at least, that the answering at the examination, however good, should not procure him a prize unless the general report was sufficiently favourable. In all schools, but more especially in those for the poorer classes, regard should be likewise had to the regularity of the pupils' attendance. On this subject we may remark, that while many special circumstances throw obstacles in the way of such regularity, we have observed that the attendance is least interrupted in those schools where the teaching is best.

Ev. 3907, 11783–6, 11348–51.

Ev. 11348.

Neatness and Order.

Much may be done in well-managed schools towards the gradual formation of

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these valuable habits. Their cultivation is not only advantageous to the pupils themselves, but also, and especially in the poorer classes, reacts beneficially on the state of their homes and families. The teachers should direct their attention to the personal clothing and cleanliness of the pupils; and should also endeavour to make them feel the importance of punctuality and regularity of attendance. As aids to the attainment of these ends, time-pieces and time-tables are indispensable; and it is to be regretted that both of these requisites are so frequently wanting in schools for all classes. In this respect we found many of the grammar schools extremely deficient. On the other hand, in those of Armagh, Dungannon, Raphoe, and St. Columba, and a few others, we found instruction given with a strict regard to the distribution and economy of time.

Although the condition of the schoolhouses is not directly the subject at present under consideration, the influence which their state has upon the mind and habits of the children should not be altogether passed over here. With reference to this point we desire to quote some excellent remarks addressed to us in a letter of the Rev. Nicholas Colthurst Dunscombe, a gentleman who also gave evidence at our public court in Cork. He observes as follows:—"If the schoolroom be consigned to neglect and disorder—the walls discolored, the windows full of cobwebs, the desks covered with dust, the floors encrusted with mud—it is vain to speak to the children of the excellence of order and neatness. Their eyes will have become so familiar with disorder that they can hardly understand any thing else." He, therefore, strongly urges the necessity for stringency on this head,—a recommendation in which we fully concur. He also notices the good effects which, in cases within his own knowledge, have resulted from the improvement of the schoolhouses, by cultivating these valuable habits not only in the children attending them, but in the adult population of the neighbourhood.

Ev. 2038.

ÆSTHETIC CULTURE.

The cultivation of the taste and imagination, independently of its æsthetic value, would, if confided to teachers capable of appreciating the influence of these faculties on the moral nature, be attended with important effects. This we shall presently point out, under the head of Vocal Music. We have already remarked, that drawing deserves a place in general education, as a means of cultivating the taste, and have also indicated the high value we attach to the culture of the imagination, by the perusal of standard authors in prose and poetry in connexion with, and, where practicable, as forming part of, the English course.

Vide p. 214, *supra*.

Vocal Music.

There are very few schools in Ireland where the children are taught to sing from note. We think that the introduction of vocal music into the general system of education would be very desirable, both as furnishing the means of rational recreation, and because it exerts a moral and refining influence. Pupils who have received instruction in music of a higher kind, listen with distaste to the coarse and too often obscene performances of ballad-singers. Songs embodying noble and virtuous sentiments may be ranked among the most powerful agencies by which the moral nature is elevated and character is formed; and the influence of such music on the human heart is greatly enhanced when it is performed by many persons singing tunefully in concert. The union and harmony of the voices awakens in the singers sympathies by which the effect of the words upon their feelings and imaginations is rendered more intense.

We received, at several of our public courts, testimony confirmatory of these views, and tending to prove the practicability of carrying them into execution. The master of the Incorporated Society's School at Clonmel recommended the teaching of vocal music, both as a recreation after difficult study, and as a means of refining the taste. He stated, that his pupils took pleasure in such instruction, and asked for it as a favour. Mr. Duggan, one of the teachers in the Christian Brothers' School in Cork, expressed a strong opinion in favour of teaching moral and religious songs to the pupils daily, and stated that they found such training to be one of the most efficacious means of educating neglected children. Vocal music is taught in the Model Schools under the National Board of Education in Ireland, at extra hours. The number of the pupils that attend on those occasions is very considerable; they take great pleasure in the subject, and make rapid progress in learning to sing at sight and in parts. The master of the Blue Coat Hospital in Dublin (the Rev. Louis A.

Ev. 989-994.

Ev. 1254-6, 1292-6.

Ev. 22615-23.

Le Pan) expressed his opinion in favour of making music a part of the school course. Attached to this institution is an organist, whose salary is £40 a-year; he teaches the boys singing twice a-week, but they are not taught to sing from note.

We recommend that, in the training schools for masters, instruction in music should be given to all who are capable of receiving it. Almost all the masters of primary schools in Germany are taught to play both the violin and organ. They are thus enabled to give instruction to the pupils in their schools, and, in many instances, to act as organists in the parish churches.

GENERAL STATE OF INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION.

His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant having directed documents relating to intermediate education to be laid before us, our attention has been particularly directed to this subject, and at several of our public Courts we received evidence respecting the opportunities which the middle classes now possess of affording to their children such a general education as is necessary to fit them for the various branches of the industrial arts, for commercial pursuits, and the public service, or as a preparation for a higher course of collegiate instruction. We, therefore, propose briefly to pass under review the statements made to us by the principal witnesses respecting the imperfections alleged to exist, and their causes; the desire expressed for the cessation of these deficiencies; and the plans suggested for effecting their removal, and for establishing a new and better system. Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 295.

At Clonmel, the Mayor and several influential inhabitants, members of the Society of Friends, concurred in expressing their opinion, that the locality greatly needed a suitable commercial school, adapted to give children of the middle classes a good English education, and instruction in modern languages, together with such an elementary knowledge of mathematics, the physical sciences, and chemistry, as would form a suitable preparation for their practical study of the agricultural and manufacturing arts. Ev. 1050, &c. 1080, &c. 1108, &c.

One witness referred to the National model schools and Mechanics' Institutes as affording, to a certain extent, opportunities for obtaining such an education; but, it was observed, that the existence of the National model schools did not prevent many of the middle classes from seeking it at a distance; that even the pupils who now frequented such schools would prefer attending one exclusively designed for persons of their own rank; and that the advantages afforded by the former were hardly intended for any but the children of the poorer classes. Ev. 1085, 1097.

At Cork, Dr. Bullen, Professor in the Faculty of Medicine in the Queen's College, dwelt strongly on the want of intermediate schools, a deficiency which, as he observed, by limiting the number of persons prepared to seek a higher class of instruction, must greatly diminish the beneficial results which ought naturally to flow from the establishment of the Queen's Colleges. In illustration of this view he stated, that on one occasion, out of thirty students who presented themselves as candidates for admission to the Queen's College at Cork, the want of the requisite preparatory training occasioned the rejection of no less than eleven. Ev. 2093, &c. Ev. 2101.

At Limerick, the Mayor and several other gentlemen, including the heads of some of the large mercantile establishments, gave evidence as to the existing state of intermediate education; and, with one exception, they agreed that it was in a very backward condition. The manager of the Provincial Bank, Mr. Franklin, in particular, dwelt on the deficiency generally prevailing as regards the knowledge of mental arithmetic, modern languages, and several other important departments of education. Ev. 2397, &c. 4147, &c. 4214, &c. 4612, &c. 4681, &c.

Dr. Cullinan, coroner for the county of Clare, adverted strongly to the absence of facilities for affording the middle classes the instruction best suited for them, and stated his belief that this defect might be removed by a more judicious application of the existing endowments for educational purposes. Ev. 4094, &c.

The witnesses who appeared before us at Maryborough concurred in representing the want of means for obtaining intermediate education in that locality. They agreed in thinking that a suitable school would be well supported in the neighbourhood; but it was doubted whether a mere classical school would succeed in gaining general support. Ev. 5118, &c. 5130, &c. 5135, &c. 5193, &c.

At Galway, the Rev. Mr. Daly, the parish priest, pointed out the educational requirements of the inhabitants; and several witnesses at Castlebar, including the rector of the parish, a surgeon, and a magistrate of the vicinity, gave evidence as to the want of superior education. Their testimony tended to show that a middle class school was much wanted, but that an endowment would be necessary in Ev. 5992, &c. Ev. 6115, &c. 6149, &c. 6173, &c. 6233, &c. 6258, &c.

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order to insure its success, inasmuch as the number of pupils likely, in the first instance, at least, to attend, would not be sufficient for its independent support.

Ev. 6577. When holding our public court at Sligo, we received a letter from Mr. Wynne, the member for the borough, in which he adverted to the absence of any "provision for the education of clerks, land-stewards, or that numerous class who do not require a knowledge of the classics." Several of the principal inhabitants of the town deposed to the want of superior education. Our attention was also called to the diminution, caused by the National school system, in the number of teachers qualified to instruct the middle classes. The poorer and more numerous portion of these prefer to attend the National schools on account of their cheapness, and the remainder are not sufficiently numerous to support an unendowed teacher capable of affording a superior education.

Ev. 6584, &c. 6651, &c. 6690, &c. 6712, &c. 6739, &c. 6748, &c. 6777, &c.

Ev. 6584, &c. Mr. James Kidd, a merchant in Sligo, and one of a deputation who waited on the Lord Lieutenant upon the subject of intermediate education in Ireland, gave it as his opinion that schools suited to the wants of the community did not exist in that town, and that something superior to what they at present possessed—a school adapted to give "not only a good English education, but, also, a knowledge of the modern languages, as well as a classical and scientific education—was much needed." Mr. Kidd continued as follows:—"I think it is a great mistake to undervalue the quality of education that is required for the mercantile classes. I do not think it can be too good. I think it would be very desirable to have a superior education for them; and, in point of fact, I think it would be very important if they were obliged to undergo a real hard study in reading, for the pure purpose of acquiring habits of application, which, I think, would be very useful to the commercial community." He stated that he found in the young men employed in his business a great deficiency with respect to their elementary knowledge and general education, and that he was anxious they should be well qualified before commencing business. He also mentioned the case of a youth desirous of pursuing a more advanced course, with a view to entering the Queen's College; but who, being unable to obtain such an education in Sligo, was obliged to accept the situation of a clerk. It appeared from his evidence that several persons in Sligo had sent their children to schools in distant places—to Derry, Belfast, and Enniskillen.

Ev. 6587. Ev. 6588. Ev. 6594–5. Ev. 6610.

Ev. 6612, 6641. Mr. Kidd having been requested by one of our body to state his views as to the best manner of meeting this want of intermediate education, advocated the establishment of schools for the middle classes in towns whose population was sufficiently large, and their endowment out of the Consolidated Fund to the extent of £100 or £200 per annum, or as much more as might be necessary for rendering them efficient; the emoluments of the master, however, he thought should be made to depend a good deal on the success of the school. These institutions, according to the view of this gentleman, should be presided over by highly qualified teachers, and frequently visited both by local and general inspectors, placed under the supervision of a Central Board. They ought to be thrown open to all classes, no religious education being attempted in them. He considered the best arrangement for religious instruction to be that of intrusting it solely to the parents, or to members of the clergy deputed for this purpose by them, the facilities afforded for uniting the religious principle with domestic influences being, in his opinion, one of the chief recommendations of such schools. The masters ought not, he thought, generally speaking, to be allowed to receive boarders; for, if the schools were sufficiently numerous, and located in towns of sufficient magnitude, the necessity for sending children from home would be greatly diminished.

Ev. 6641. Ev. 6624, &c.

Ev. 6937, &c. 6956, &c. 6965, &c. At Carrick-on-Shannon, the Roman Catholic clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Dawson, and the Rev. Mr. Percy, the clergyman of the United Church at that place, as well as Mr. Cox, an extensive land agent, were agreed upon the want of intermediate schools, but fears were expressed that the obstacles arising from differences of religion would prove serious impediments to their success. Contrary to the opinion of most other witnesses who adverted to the subject, Mr. Cox thought that local taxation for the support of such schools would not be objected to.

Ev. 7313, &c. We received evidence on this subject at Roscommon from the Very Rev. Mr. Warburton, the Dean of Elphin. He was of opinion that, while many pupils obtained a middle class education in the National schools, a great want existed of schools of a superior description, adapted for giving instruction in science and modern languages, and in classics also, to such as desired to learn them.

Ev. 7699, &c. At Longford, the Chairman of the Town Commissioners, and another member

of the same Board, supported the opinion elsewhere expressed in evidence before us, that the majority of the middle classes were mainly dependent on the National schools for commercial and scientific instruction. They were not, however, insensible to the difficulties which intermediate schools, designed for the united education of persons of different religions, would have to encounter. 7739, &c. 7743, &c. 7751, &c.

At Armagh, Mr. Kirk, the member for Newry, laid a written statement before us on the subject of intermediate education. In this he expressed his conviction "that, though education is much more general now than it was twenty years ago, it is of a lower quality." We think it right to quote at length the remarks of Mr. Kirk on this head, as being those of a gentleman long resident in and well acquainted with the north of Ireland. He observed as follows:— Ev. 9639, &c.

"The cause arises, in my opinion, from the fact, that before the establishment of national schools there was in every town one or more schoolmasters who were capable of teaching, and did teach, classics and science; and though not many pupils took advantage of this, a few did; and these were almost invariably those who had a taste for a higher education. But the opening of the national schools took away almost all the children who wished for merely elementary knowledge; since while the national schoolmaster taught all the rudiments for a penny a-week, the old schoolmaster charged from sixteen shillings to twenty-six shillings a-year, or even more; and when the junior classes were taken away, the senior were too few to pay; so that, in most cases, the masters sought other employments, and it is only in a few of the larger towns that such schools now exist at all. At the same time there never was such a demand for educated persons, both at home and abroad, more especially for such as possess a knowledge of languages, literature, and science. The son of the merchant or country gentleman who can bear the expenses can acquire all this, first at an academy or boarding school, and secondly at one of the Queen's Colleges or Trinity College, Dublin; but it is clear that this is far beyond the reach of the son of the small farmer, the shopkeeper, the clerk, the artisan, the mechanic, or the manufacturer; and even if it were not, we know that if a young man has been sent a session or two to a college, he acquires a distaste for standing behind a counter, for managing a bleach work, a dye work, a spinning mill, or a manufactory, and still more for any handicraft trade; yet it is evident that vast benefits to themselves and to society at large would arise if all these classes were made acquainted with the scientific principles of their respective trades or future occupations, and that at a moderate cost, in the neighbourhood of their homes. I think it is evident that the endowed schools were intended for the benefit of the middle classes generally, and not for the instruction of the higher; or even to be what they are, feeders of Trinity College; and that the time has arrived when they should be changed, and adapted to the wants of the country." Ev. 9642.

Mr. Kirk expressed his conviction that the royal, and other endowed schools did not furnish such an education as was now increasingly demanded by the middle classes. He, therefore, advocated the remodelling of them, and the establishment of new intermediate schools "wherever they would be self-supporting or nearly so," and proposed, that in order to furnish a test of this, the localities which demanded their foundation should be called on to subscribe one-third of the cost of erecting the necessary houses and premises, in proof of their desire and ability to comply with the condition thus specified. According to the views expressed by this gentleman, the funds for the new schools might be supplied out of existing endowments, or, if these failed, "by a small educational rate to be levied by the Grand Jury, and collected with the county cess." Mr. Kirk urged the importance of making scientific instruction a prominent feature in such schools; and he recommended that the rates of tuition should be moderate, and that boarders and free scholars should be excluded, on the ground that their presence prevented that feeling of equality which he thought ought to prevail among the pupils. In his opinion it would be inadvisable to make religious instruction a part of the general course, or to provide for its being given to the various denominations on the premises, but he expressed his wish that "the school should be opened and closed with a general kind of prayer, such as all could unite in." The emoluments of the teachers should be made, to a considerable extent, dependent on their own exertions, the fixed annual stipend being merely in aid of these. Mr. Kirk also recommended that the intermediate schools so established "should be placed under a Board of Commissioners in Dublin, selected from all parties in the country, of whom one should be paid." Ev. 9641 9646, &c. Ev. 9651. Ev. 9661. Ev. 9642, 9655. Ev. 9642.

The witnesses whom we examined at Belfast agreed, generally, as to the defec- Ev. 10486, &c.

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10514, &c.
10547, &c.
10549, &c.
Ev. 10547.

tive condition of intermediate education in the north of Ireland, and the great necessity for supplying this local want, which was, they stated, increasingly felt by all classes. Among them were several Presbyterian clergymen, who also adverted to the effect of the National schools in diminishing the number of middle class teachers; and in connexion with this topic, the Rev. Dr. Wilson noticed the diminution in the number of educated candidates duly qualified for the ministry.

Ev. 10514.

The Rev. Dr. M'Cosh, Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in the Queen's College, Belfast, stated his belief that there was a great want of intermediate instruction in the country, and advocated the establishment of endowed schools for the middle classes, both as a means of furnishing a superior kind of education, and on the ground that a set of schools holding a position between that of the National schools and the Universities, were required as feeders to the collegiate institutions. He pointed out the inadequacy of the existing endowed schools to meet this want, a fact more especially indicated by the small proportion of the students which they annually furnish to the Queen's Colleges. According to Dr. M'Cosh, this is mainly to be ascribed to the constitution of the Board of Education, and the circumstance that the course of education pursued in the Grammar schools under it is too exclusively based on that prescribed by Trinity College. The following passage, read to us by Dr. M'Cosh, from a pamphlet published by him on this subject, forcibly illustrates the serious deficiencies that now exist in the system of intermediate education in the north of Ireland. He observed as follows :—

Ev. 10516.

"There are large villages, populous rural districts, and even market and borough towns, which are not within five, ten, or even twenty miles of any classical school. I will submit a few statements, which are confined to Ulster, not because it is worse than the other provinces (it is notoriously in a better position), but because it is the part of Ireland with which I am best acquainted. Beginning with the county Down, we have Donaghadee, with a population of 4,000, without a single classical school, endowed or private, in the town, or within six miles of it. In Rathfriland, with a population of upwards of 2,000, there is no public school for the upper branches; and the only private one, from frequent change of teachers, is almost extinct. In Newtownards, with a population of 10,000, there is no endowed classical school, though there is a private school in which the classics, along with the branches of an English education, are taught. Going north, to the county of Antrim, we meet with Larne, with a population of between 4,000 and 5,000, but having no classical school. In Antrim there is a private classical school, confined to twelve boys of the upper classes, but no provision for the children of the middle or lower classes. I have heard of some boys in the neighbourhood of Antrim who come in every day, a distance of eighteen miles, by railway, to school in Belfast. Those families which do not live in the vicinity of a railway station must just do without education in the higher branches for their children. In the neighbouring town of Randalstown, which is so important as to have a branch railway leading to it, there was lately no classical school of any description. Passing on towards Derry I ascertained, when in Coleraine, a few months ago, that in this town, while there have been from time to time private teachers giving instruction in classics, yet these being inadequately supported, have either been drawn away to other localities, or have failed for want of encouragement; and that there is not at this present time in Coleraine, which has a population of 6,000, or within a circle of twenty miles, including the thriving and populous towns of Ballymoney and Newtownlimavady, and the lesser, though still important towns of Garvagh, Kilrea, Portglenone, Maghera, Bushmills, Dervock, Portrush, and Portstewart, a single endowed classical school, or upper school, on any foundation which can be described as permanent. In most of the places named there is no classical school whatever; and I heard of small farmers living in populous country districts, of shopkeepers, and poor Presbyterian ministers, living in towns of considerable importance, sending their boys of only ten or twelve years of age to board at places which are at the distance of twenty or thirty miles. It is proper to mention, however, that in a very few of the places referred to there are classical schools. Thus, in Newtownlimavady there is a school kept by a clergyman for about a dozen boys of the upper classes; but no school intended for the other classes, or adapted to them. In Ballymoney there is no endowed school; but there is a private school, taught by the Non-subscribing Presbyterian minister, in which classics are combined with the usual branches of an English and mercantile education. I rather think, that in nearly the whole of the other towns referred to, there are no means whatever of acquiring

the higher branches. At Dungiven, for instance, a town of considerable importance in the county of Londonderry, there is no classical school of any description. Passing round to the north-west of Ireland, correspondents write me that they are ten and twenty miles distant from the nearest classical school of any efficiency. At Ramelton, with a population of nearly 2,000, there is no school in which the Latin language is taught. A gentleman writes me from the chief town of one of our northern counties, that there is no endowed classical school in the place, and that a private school, at which classics are taught, is of no great usefulness. Another, writing from a town with a population of 2,000, says, 'the teachers we have had from time to time are young men looking forward to the Presbyterian ministry, and who, after a short stay, generally leave for some other locality, or for College.' Their removal has the effect of scattering the school, and great difficulty is experienced in collecting it. This remark applies to many other places. Coming round towards the point from which I started, I find that in the market town of Ballibay, in Monaghan, with a population of 2,000, and seated in the heart of a populous district, there is no classical school of any description."

In order to obviate these defects Dr. M'Cosh proposed the establishment of a system of intermediate education; of which the Royal, and all other schools supported by public money, should form a part; while its completion ought to be effected by new foundations. The funds for these, he thought, should be partly supplied by Government; only, however, in aid of local contributions, which he estimated as amounting, in large towns, to one-third or one-half of the entire expense. The number of such schools, and the salary of the teachers, should vary with the locality; and he advised the adoption of a low scale of fees for tuition. He also recommended the appointment of a new commission, so constituted as to represent the various interests in the community, religious, educational, and commercial, to manage the funds, and generally to take charge of the schools. He strongly expressed the wish that the local authorities should have some powers of supervision, but was opposed to giving any privileges to subscribers. He recommended that a local fund should be formed for paying the fees of poor pupils, who ought not, however, in his opinion, to be admitted unless they had previously undergone some examination in order to test their ability, and to remove any prejudice on the score of poverty.

Ev. 10522.
Ev. 10522.
Ev. 10539.

The Rev. Dr. Wilson, Professor of Biblical Criticism in connexion with the Presbyterian body, and the Rev. John Scott Porter, Professor of Hebrew and Biblical Criticism and Theology to the Non-subscribing Presbyterians of Ireland, also deposed to the absence of a system of education adapted to meet the wants of the middle classes, and expressed their conviction that the desire for a higher education was not declining in the north of Ireland, but, on the contrary, existed to a high degree, although the means had been wanting to foster and cherish that desire as it ought to be cherished.

Ev. 10547, &c.
Ev. 10549, &c.

At Londonderry, Sir Robert Ferguson, member for Londonderry, pointed out, as did Mr. Wynne at Sligo, and Mr. Kirk at Armagh, the absence of the means of providing a good education for clerks and other persons placed in similar positions, and gave it as his opinion that education of that kind was not increasing, but, on the contrary, rather diminishing in efficiency.

Ev. 11003, &c.
Ev. 11014.

A deputation of the principal inhabitants of the neighbourhood waited on us at Omagh to give information with respect to the state of education, and from two of their number, the Rev. Mr. Chapman, rector of Drinnagh, and Mr. Alexander, manager of the Branch of the Provincial Bank, we received much evidence on this subject. The absence of an adequate educational provision to meet the wants of the district for any class above those who were willing that their children should attend the National schools was strongly adverted to, as well as the desirableness of some endowment with a view to meet this deficiency.

Ev. 11452.
11453, &c.
11556, &c.

At Enniskillen several persons gave evidence respecting the general defects of education, and among others the Rev. John Grey Porter, who suggested the appointment of a minister of education, such as exists in some countries on the Continent.

Ev. 12198, &c.

The master of the Roman Catholic Diocesan Seminary at Navan when examined by us, adverted to the fact—noticed by so many other witnesses—that private middle-class schools had been displaced by those under the National Board.

Ev. 13019, &c.

Some evidence was given on the same subject at our public courts at Wicklow and Naas. The want of a good classical and English school to meet local requirements was stated.

Ev. 13068.
Ev. 13691, &c.
13764, &c.
13943, &c.

In Dublin, Mr. Kennedy, one of the members for Louth, brought under our notice the question of industrial training. In speaking on the subject of inter-

13962, &c.
Ev. 14823.

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mediate education, he, also, adverted to the effect of the national schools in supplanting non-endowed private schools for the middle classes.

We also received evidence in Dublin as to the general state of education from Mr. Alexander Thom, the author of the well-known Directory and Almanac; from Mr. Robert Murray, who has been for thirty years the manager of the Provincial Bank of Ireland; and from Mr. Richard Davis Webb, who for many years has been extensively engaged in the printing trade. Mr. Webb stated that owing to the want of suitable schools in the vicinity of Dublin he had been obliged to send his children to Manchester in order to give them a good English education. Mr. Murray stated that during a long experience, acquired in the examination of young persons who were candidates for clerkships, he had found them, even when belonging to the better classes, very generally deficient, being both unable to write their own language correctly, and backward in the knowledge of arithmetic. Mr. Thom also was very unfavourably impressed with the present state of the education of the middle classes.

Ev. 23471.

Ev. 23495, &c.

Ev. 23522, &c.

We have thus shortly noticed the leading points presented by the important evidence which we have received on the subject of intermediate education. It manifests the prevalence of a very strong feeling respecting the existence of deficiencies which now, to a great extent, debar the middle classes from the enjoyment of the inestimable advantages of good instruction. So far are these from diminishing that, in the opinion of many of the witnesses, they are on the increase. This circumstance they agreed in attributing to the fact, that while, on the one hand, the national schools now afford to the poorer classes an elementary education of a better kind and at a far cheaper rate than that formerly given by the private schoolmasters; on the other hand they have displaced the schools kept by these masters, who augmented the subsistence which they chiefly derived from the humbler scholars by the fees received for instructing the children of the middle classes in the higher branches of education. The witnesses were equally unanimous in expressing their conviction that the desire to procure for their children an education of a superior kind is rapidly gaining ground among the middle classes, who increasingly feel its necessity as a preparation for those various callings, which the progress of agriculture, of the industrial arts, of commercial intercourse, and, generally, of society in all its departments, has either created or raised into a position at once of increasing difficulty and of greater importance.

In opposition to the views of those gentlemen who, as it will have been seen from the foregoing evidence, urged on us the necessity for Government grants in aid of local efforts for the establishment of suitable intermediate schools, it has been objected by some that the deficiencies admitted to exist in this respect might be supplied by a re-distribution and more judicious application of the educational endowments already in being.

In this view we cannot concur for reasons, the sufficiency of which is, we think, fully established by the results of our inquiries. Thus it appears that the funds at the disposal of the Governors of Erasmus Smith's foundation, besides being entirely inapplicable to a system of non-exclusive education, are fully absorbed in providing for the schools at present in operation under that Board. The same remark applies to those administered by the Incorporated Society.

So far are the endowments of the Diocesan schools from affording a surplus over and above what is requisite for the efficient support of the schools of that class now in operation, that they appear to be inadequate even for this purpose.

The endowments attached to some of the Royal schools are, no doubt, considerable; but, with a few exceptions, they are not greater than is needed for their due maintenance as educational establishments; and in cases where there is a surplus remaining from the funds of any individual school, this would be best employed in making provision in all the Royal schools for enlarged courses of scientific and English instruction, and tuition in foreign languages, and in giving increased efficiency to such of them as are less amply endowed.

Of the remaining endowments applicable to educational purposes, a very large proportion are of an exclusive nature; the residue do not furnish greater incomes than are required for the proper support of the institutions, to the maintenance of which they ought to be applied. These are, besides, for the most part, only schools intended to afford elementary education.

App. pp. 55, 56.

We have had tables prepared, from which it appears that the entire number of Endowed Grammar Schools in Ireland is fifty-two, forty-nine of which are in towns, and of these only fifteen have endowments of £250 a-year and upwards;

and that the superior English schools are only two in number, of which but one has an endowment of upwards of £250 a-year. There are thus ninety-one towns having above 2,000 inhabitants, according to the Census of 1851, and in which there is situate no Grammar or superior English school which is in operation and included in the Tables of Schools and Endowments.

From the evidence referred to above, we are convinced that the establishment of a system of primary education by Government has had the effect of greatly diminishing the resources which, though no doubt scanty and imperfect, the middle classes, to a certain extent, formerly enjoyed for giving a suitable education to their children; and there seems to be no prospect that the void thus left will be supplied by exertions of a purely voluntary nature.

Having, therefore, received, from so many quarters, evidence of the great want of intermediate education, and of the inadequacy of existing endowments to provide it, we were led to consider in what manner this acknowledged want might be best supplied.

At the outset we were met by the difficulty brought under our notice by one of the Commissioners, Mr. Hughes, who submitted the following proposition:—

"That it is right and just that endowments, in which different religious deno-
"minations have, or shall have rights or interests, should be divided among the
"several religious denominations according to their wants and numbers in the
"localities to which such endowments are applicable."

At the same time Mr. Hughes laid before us the Synodical Address of the Council of Thurles, and the Rescripts on the Queen's Colleges referred to in the Address, with a request that they should be published amongst the documents of the Commission. He also stated, that he believed that the Address and Rescripts referred to represented the opinions of the Roman Catholics of Ireland, and that any new Government institutions for intermediate education, on a plan inconsistent with those opinions, would not be acceptable to Roman Catholics. Mr. Hughes also presented the following papers relating to the same subject:— Address of the Archbishops and Bishops, dated 9th September, 1850; Archbishop Cullen's Letter to the Clergy of the Archdiocese of Armagh, dated 26th November, 1850; and the Pastoral of Archbishop Cullen to the Clergy of the Archdiocese of Dublin, 1st December, 1856. We considered it unnecessary to publish these documents in connexion with our Report. They have been already extensively circulated; and they appeared to us to be nearly identical in substance with the preceding, and less authoritative in their nature.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 380.

After mature consideration, we have come to the conclusion that we cannot recommend the adoption of these principles. They are completely at variance with those which have been recognised for some years past as the basis of Parliamentary aid to education in Ireland. They are also at variance with the recommendations of the Commissioners of Education Inquiry of 1791, and with the plan proposed by Mr. Wyse's Committee of the House of Commons on Foundation Schools in 1838.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 341.
Rep. 1838, p. 64.

We were most anxious to have matured a plan that would have met with the concurrence of Mr. Hughes; but, notwithstanding his dissent from our views, we feel that the demand for intermediate education is so considerable, especially in the north of Ireland, that we are called on to suggest means of supplying it in accordance with principles that we can approve of, in those localities where it is required by the inhabitants, without providing a Government system of intermediate education in places where it might not be acceptable to the majority of the population.

We think that this may be effected by the union of local funds, under the management of local trustees, with grants of public money. The provision for local management would enable the trustees to make suitable regulations for religious instruction, provided that the school shall, as a condition of its partaking of the grant of public money, admit of the united education of persons of all religious persuasions; and provided, also, that the local managers shall be subject to the direct control of the proposed Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

Competitive Examinations for Appointments in the Public Service.

A member of our Commission, Mr. A. J. Stephens, brought forward a resolution affirming the expediency of continuing to hold competitive examinations for appointments in the public service from time to time in Dublin, but open to all your Majesty's subjects. This measure has received the unanimous approval of our body, who regard it as an effectual method of

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promoting intermediate education. The experience already obtained respecting the operation of public and competitive examinations, so far as they have hitherto been tried, leaves no doubt on our minds that the extension of this system would, under judicious management, produce very beneficial effects, both in raising the standard of instruction, and in stimulating the efforts of masters and of pupils. The educational tests best adapted for examinations for the public service would be, in our opinion, of all others the most general in their character, and, therefore, those best calculated to direct the efforts of teachers to that course of mental discipline and moral training, the attainment of which constitutes, in our opinion, the chief object of a liberal education. That such has, in fact, been the tendency of the system of Government examinations, clearly appears from the reports of your Majesty's Civil Service Commissioners, since there is no point on which these gentlemen dwell more strongly than the shortcomings of all classes, with reference to the most elementary branches of a scientific and literary education. In other ways, also, the Commissioners indicate the superior importance which they attach to instruction of a general nature, as compared with knowledge of that special kind which can quickly be learned in actual practice by those whose faculties have been properly developed, and their mental activity called forth. With a view, therefore, to the maintenance of this just standard of school education, and in order to avoid the serious evils which would arise from directing the attention and efforts of masters to what may be called the special requirements of the public business, we think it is very important that the same generality which has hitherto characterized the public competitive examinations should continue to prevail, as the application of the system is extended to more numerous branches of your Majesty's service.

1st Report, C. S. Commissioners, p. xx.
2nd Report, p. iv.

We received at our public courts a good deal of evidence on this subject, and we think it desirable to refer shortly to the testimony thus given, as its general tenor strongly corroborates the views just stated.

Ev. 302, &c. 1235–7, 1691–3.

The Archdeacon of Waterford, and the Rev. H. J. O'Brien, head master of the Cork Diocesan School, expressed their opinion that the holding of competitive examinations in Dublin for appointments in the public service, would tend to promote general education. The former gentleman also observed that such a system would enable private schools or endowed schools, which had no exhibitions attached to them, to compete on a more equal footing with schools possessing such advantages; while the latter pointed out that parents would thus be induced to leave their children at school to a later age than that early one at which they are now so generally withdrawn, with a view to their entering on mercantile pursuits.

Ev. 2122, &c. 2148, &c.

Dr. Bullen, Professor of Surgery in the Queen's College, Cork, stated his conviction that such a system would have the best effects on education, in the following terms:—

"No movement ever made will so materially advance education in this country as the throwing open public situations in the civil service. It has given already a great impulse to education, and will give greater. With regard to education, every person enters school with a view to a future profession and settlement in life. Heretofore there was no object to which a young man could turn but a profession—he should either enter the law, or the medical profession, or the church. Now, in consequence of the civil service being thrown open to the public, every young man looks forward to getting a station of independence, and, probably, of respectability and wealth, as the result of his academical exertions. The consequence already is beginning to tell—although only in operation a few months, it has told in a most satisfactory manner in this city; and, from what I can see, it is likely to have the happiest results on education generally."

Ev. 2162.

He also thought that it was undesirable and impracticable to hold all examinations for the public service exclusively in London.

Ev. 3873, &c.

The Rev. Luke White King, head master of Erasmus Smith's Grammar School at Ennis, pointed out the improvement which the Civil Service examinations had already caused in his own school by inducing him to give instruction in natural history, as well as other branches which he had never taught before.

Ev. 4724–6.

The Rev. William Burke, Roman Catholic Administrator of St. John's Parish, in Limerick, approved of the above scheme, and mentioned that the private examinations latterly adopted in that city for testing the capacity of candidates for commercial situations, had already exercised a great influence on education.

The Dean of Elphin and the Bishop of Down advocated the same system, on the ground of its tendency to produce competition between schools, and to stimulate private enterprise. The former considered that the moral character of candidates would be satisfactorily tested by requiring certificates of good conduct from the clergyman or resident magistrates of the localities whence the candidates came.

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

Ev. 7327 &c.
Ev. 10484, &c.

Mr. Kirk, the member for Newry, also thought the holding of competitive examinations for appointments in the public service in Dublin would give a great stimulus to education.

Ev. 9644–5.

The Rev. Dr. M'Cosh expressed his conviction that "the means of competing for the offices in the public service is denied to a very large portion of Ireland, in consequence of the middle classes not having the means of higher education."

Ev. 10522.

The Bishop of Cashel thought that competition for public offices would be more valuable, and more likely to insure good education than the endowment of schools giving education gratuitously. And the Rev. Nicholas Power, head master of the Meath Diocesan Seminary, expressed an opinion to the same effect.

Ev. 17228.
Ev. 13070–5.

The Rev. F. H. Ringwood, head master of Dungannon Royal School, expressed some doubts as to the effect of such examinations in promoting a sound system of intermediate education; principally on the grounds that the standard at present proposed, except for the artillery and engineers, was not at all high, and that the system would have a tendency to encourage the masters to pay too much attention to special branches, and particular pupils, to the injury of the general course of instruction. He considered, however, that the interests both of school education and those of the public service would be best consulted if examination in a very general course were insisted on, and if the candidates who succeeded in this were afterwards furnished with special instruction to fit them for their particular duties.

Ev. 11859, &c.

Ev. 11868–71.

In confirmation of the above views, and as an illustration of the benefits likely to accrue both to the cause of education and to the public service from the extension of the system of competitive examinations, we may add that, at the late competitive examination for certificates of merit held by the Royal Dublin Society, Mr. Samuel Chapman, who was educated solely by the Incorporated Society, as a foundation boy, obtained the first place and a prize of £5. In consequence of this success, the Bank of Ireland immediately appointed him to a clerkship. Mr. Chapman was originally elected to the Pococke Institution, from a parish school, by a competitive examination; and on his leaving the Santry school Professor Galbraith appointed him his assistant in Trinity College, in consequence of the skill in drawing which he exhibited, and his knowledge of mathematics, as proved by his final examination.

SUPERANNUATION AND PROMOTION OF MASTERS.

There are few things more required for securing the efficiency of schoolmasters than the adoption of a system of promotion where the master has shown merit by the good conduct of his school.

To secure this object, we have recommended that patronage should be transferred to the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

Vide p. 246, *infra*.

The patronage would be much restricted and diminished in value unless a limit was put to the age beyond which masters would not be allowed to continue to act.

This subject is noticed by some of our Assistant Commissioners. Thus, Mr. Crawford says:—"It is not less important to the success and efficiency of a school having a permanent endowment, that a power should be vested in some person or body to remove a master who might be originally well qualified, but who, from the effects of age, or mental or physical infirmities, has ceased to possess his original qualifications. In such a case, the school naturally dwindles to small dimensions, and often ceases to be operative at all. Its reputation or prestige is gone; and a new master has to undergo the tedious and up-hill drudgery of re-establishing it.

Appendix, p. 1.

"It is probable that a power of this kind must be accompanied by a system of superannuation, which can only co-exist with endowments of considerable value. I do not pretend to suggest how the scheme I propose can be carried out, but I feel strongly its necessity."

Dr. M'Blain says:—"There are two important points, bearing directly on the efficiency of the teacher, and consequently on the efficiency of the school, to which attention should be directed—one is, that some provision should be made, wherever practicable, for meritorious teachers who have become incapacitated

Ibid. p. 12.

SUPERANNUATION AND PROMOTION OF MASTERS.

for duty by age or infirmity; and the other is, that some system of promotion or reward should be adopted, whereby teachers may be stimulated to greater exertion. For want of the former, many men have been permitted, from motives of compassion, to continue as teachers of schools long after they have lost the necessary health and strength required for the adequate discharge of their duties; and for want of the latter, schoolmasters have, in too many cases, lapsed into indolence and apathy. I cannot, of course, here enter into the details of the subject. I merely indicate the defects which appear to exist in most of our large educational institutions. The Board of Erasmus Smith do not grant any retiring pensions or allowances to their teachers, no matter what their length of service or their merits may have been. One instance of the cruel operation of this rule came under my notice at Donadea, in the county of Kildare, where two teachers (a husband and wife), after a faithful service of thirty-one years, were, in their old age, for no fault on their part, dismissed from the employment of the Board without any pension or remuneration whatever. The Incorporated Society appear, in some cases, to have made provision for their old and infirm teachers; and the National Board have, I believe, adopted the plan of giving gratuities to deserving teachers who have become old or infirm in their service. I do not, however, consider that in either case is the provision adequate to the end proposed. The Clare-street Commissioners do not provide, by pension or otherwise, for their old or infirm masters.

Ev. 21758.

"With regard to a system of promotion, I think it of great importance that schoolmasters should be encouraged to greater diligence by the prospect of being advanced to better schools or higher situations in the disposal of their employers. In none of our existing educational establishments does it appear to me that sufficient measures have been adopted to secure this important object."

We have found the same difficulty in several cases that came under our consideration, where the school was injured by the continuance of the master after he had ceased to be able to discharge the duties efficiently; and yet where there was no fund to provide a pension without unduly burthening the charity, and diminishing the salary of the successor so seriously as to interfere with the acceptance of the appointment by a really efficient master.

In the public service it is still the rule that the officer cannot retire until the age of sixty-five, unless he be incapacitated by infirmity from discharging his duties. On superannuation, he continues to receive, by way of pension, a part of the salary he enjoyed on his retirement, proportioned to the period of his service, provision for its payment being made by a compulsory abatement deducted from his salary. This plan, if justly conceived, and carefully adjusted, is capable of producing some satisfactory results; but it is open to serious objections. No provision is made in it for the family of, or persons otherwise dependent on, the officer, in case of his death, either while still in office or after his retirement, but before he has received the full benefit of the deductions made from his salary. There is a method of insurance sometimes adopted, which would obviate the objection to the civil service arrangement for superannuation, and at the same time secure what is really required. If the age for retirement were fixed, schoolmasters might be required to insure a sum equal to, at least, three times their annual salary, payable at the fixed age, or at death, if it should happen sooner, and the policy might be assigned to the managers of the school, and premiums paid by a deduction from salaries where the salary is large, and by an increase where the salaries are really too small. Such a system of insurance would be no more than requiring each master to do what he ought to do in the discharge of duties incumbent on him, and would, therefore, be no burthen on him, whilst it would afford some assistance to those naturally dependent on him in case of his early death, and secure some provision for himself in old age; and so would prevent the general enforcement of a rule of retiring at the fixed age being considered as a hardship. The amount of the premium on the policy would be small in the case of masters appointed at an early age, and would only be large in the case of those appointed at an advanced period of life. The amount of the premium, and the amount of the sum insured would be alike independent of the management of those having charge of the schools, and would be alike regulated by the ordinary principles of insurance, and could, therefore, give rise to no dissatisfaction, nor be subject to any insecurity, except that arising from the insolvency of Insurance Companies, a matter entirely unconnected with the Boards having charge of schools.

REGISTRATION OF SCHOOL ENDOWMENTS.

During the course of the present inquiry our attention has been called repeatedly, and in a great variety of ways, to the very serious evils which result from the defective state of the existing records of school endowments, and the total absence of any thing approaching to a systematic provision for the preservation of deeds and other instruments containing evidence specially relating to educational foundations. In our observations upon the five classes of endowments comprised in the Tables, we have noticed this deficiency, and pointed out the mode in which it operates in relation to each. The institution of an office for the registration of school endowments is, in our opinion, equally needed, and equally justifiable in relation to all educational endowments, from whatever source they proceed, and for the benefit of whatever class they may be designed. We may here briefly indicate the general advantages which we think must flow from the establishment of a central office for the registry of school endowments. They are principally of two kinds, and relate, firstly, to the preservation of the instruments which constitute the foundation of educational endowments; secondly, to the publication of the contents of these instruments for the benefit of the community at large, and especially for that of persons inhabiting the locality directly interested in the charities.

Vide p. 189, *supra.*

The Tables contain numerous cases which show how imperfectly muniments of title are now protected, not merely with regard to private endowments, but to such also as have been placed under the immediate charge of public boards. On this head we cannot refer to any example more striking than that afforded by the conduct of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, as elsewhere stated by us. Neither can it be doubted that most prejudicial consequences must unavoidably result from the absence of full and accurate records, so placed and arranged as to be easily accessible to the public. A just estimate may be formed of their nature and extent by a reference to many cases noticed in the Tables, and especially to those previously commented on in our Report, where the school sites have been sold by the Incumbered Estates Court.

Vide p. 243 *infra.*

Vide p. 195 *supra.*

For the purpose of remedying the deficiencies now existing in relation to this matter, we beg to recommend the establishment of a separate Office for the Registration of School Endowments, where all deeds and other documents containing evidence specially relating to educational charities, or copies thereof, should be lodged and committed to the custody of an officer exclusively charged with the duty of preserving and arranging them, and making their contents accessible and known to the public. Our inquiries have brought to light numerous title deeds and documents pertaining to schools founded under the auspices of the Lord Lieutenant's School Fund Commissioners, the Association for Discountenancing Vice, and the Kildare-place Society, of which some have come into our possession. We recommend that such instruments, so far as the same relate to schools which were founded by these bodies during the continuance of the parliamentary grants, as well as all muniments of title of schools actually vested in the proposed Board of Endowed Schools, be transferred to the Registrar; and that this officer should be empowered to call for copies of like documents from the trustees of all other schools; and also to take charge of the originals in case the trustees should be willing to deposit them in his office. We further recommend that it be made part of the business of the Court of Probate and of the Office for the Registration of Deeds and Wills in Ireland, to make returns to the Registrar of all charitable devises, bequests, grants, and other donations relating to schools or destined for educational purposes. These returns ought, so far as wills are concerned, to consist of extracts, and it would then be the duty of the Registrar of School Endowments to satisfy himself that the latter were in a legal point of view sufficient, and constituted complete documents on which all persons could safely act.

The Court of Probate in Ireland should be required, in all cases of wills containing bequests for educational purposes, to make returns to the Registrar of School Endowments, showing the value of the testator's property as estimated for the purpose of imposing probate duty, together with the names of the representatives who have proved the will. The Succession and Legacy Duty Office should make similar returns in any case where the representatives apply either to have a deduction of probate duty made or to pay an increased amount, and also returns of the exact sum, or estimated value of all gifts, made for educa-

REGISTRATION OF SCHOOL ENDOWMENTS.

tional purposes, whether by deed or will, and consisting either of real or of personal property, which it became necessary to ascertain with a view to the collection of the Legacy or Succession Duties. The Court of Probate and the Succession and Legacy Duty Office in England should also be required to make similar returns in respect of any wills proved or deeds executed in that country, which might contain gifts for educational purposes in Ireland.

The information thus given would, in very many instances, be all that was requisite for the efficient registration of the endowments; and, even when falling short of this, it would be most valuable, both intrinsically, and as enabling the Registrar to institute further inquiries. With a view to this last object, it ought to be part of the duty of the public offices above mentioned to give every facility for the complete performance of the Registrar's functions, and no fees should be chargeable in respect of any such searches as he might deem it necessary to make.

It should also form part of the duty of this officer to make the list of foundation deeds and other similar instruments as complete as possible; to add statements showing the amount realized, the names of the trustees, and generally the nature and extent of the endowments; and to classify the information thus obtained, with indices to the several heads, in such a manner as to render it available for the protection of the endowments and useful to the public. The Registrar should, periodically, and at short intervals, make returns to the proposed Board of Endowed Schools of the above matters, so far as the same might relate to non-exclusive endowments. He ought also to receive formal notice of all judicial sales. Copies of all proceedings had upon visitations, and of all reports, rules, orders, and decisions relating to educational endowments should be deposited with the Registrar, whose duty it would be to ascertain their correctness. Copies of any documents in his custody, made and certified by him, should, we think, be rendered *prima facie* evidence by statute. The public should be entitled to inspect the registers, and to make copies of, or take extracts from them, free of expense; and the Registrar should be bound to give such information and advice to parties seeking the same, as might be calculated to promote the interests of the charities. With the same view the Registrar should be required to make an Annual Report, showing the existing state of educational endowments in Ireland.

We have thus given a general view of the important public objects in relation to educational charities, which in our opinion may be attained by the establishment of a separate Office for the Registration of School Endowments. There are, however, we do not doubt, many ways, not expressly pointed out by us, in which an intelligent officer, sincerely anxious to render his office available to the utmost possible extent for the protection of school endowments and the advancement of the interests of educational charities, might promote these objects.

The effective discharge of his functions, taken in connexion with the proposed Board of Endowed Schools, would greatly aid the Commissioners in the performance of theirs.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

Vide p. 4 *supra.*

We have already stated that the accounts of several charities, and Boards having charge of endowed schools, were examined by an official Accountant selected by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to assist us in our inquiries. His reports led to an examination at our public courts respecting the accounts of the Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, of the Incorporated Society, of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, and of the Governors of the Blue Coat Hospital, Dublin; also to the correspondence concerning the Hibernian Marine School, and Madam Mercer's School, given in the Appendix of Documents; and to the attention of the Inspector of Estates being specially called to the agent's accounts of Wilson's Hospital Estate, and Morgan's Charity Estate, the result of which is stated in his reports thereon.

Doc. Ev. vol ii. pp. 323–8.

Appendix, pp. 47–49.

The Government Accountant also examined the accounts of the several other endowed schools under the management of Boards or Trustees, already detailed, the result of which examination is stated to be that in all those minor institutions, errors and imperfections appear to exist, of a similar nature to those pointed out in the larger charities.

Vide p. 4 *supra.*
Appendix, pp. 201.

The report of the Government Accountant on the books of account of the Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools, submitted by us for his inspection, was unfavourable; and our examination of Mr. Thorp, the assistant registrar, and

Ev. 19062 *et seq.*

Mr. Barlow, who discharged the duties of chairman, treasurer, and auditor of accounts, satisfied us that the accounts of the Governors were kept in a very unsatisfactory manner. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

An additional motive for accuracy is supplied to the Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools, in the strict and precise directions on this head given in their Charters. The Charter of Charles II. provides, that the treasurer "shall every year give up a true and just account of all his receipts, disbursements, and arrears of rent, and of all and every such sums of money and other the goods and revenues of and belonging to the same schools," and shall receive final discharges thereof; and the Charter of William IV. provides, that not only the treasurer, but also "the register and agent, and all and every other the officers and persons employed by the said Governors or their successors, in the receiving, keeping, paying, and disposing of the moneys, rents, revenues, and other the goods and treasure belonging to the said schools, shall yearly and every year, or oftener whensoever thereunto required by the said Governors or their successors, or any five or more of them, make and give up a true and just account of all his and their receipts, disbursements, balances, and arrears of rent, and of all and every such sum and sums of money and other the goods and revenues of and belonging to the same schools as shall have been by him or them received or disposed of as aforesaid, unto the said Governors," or any person or persons deputed by them to investigate the same; and that the Governors examine and allow of such accounts, and give final discharges thereof if required.

About the year 1843 the Governors, for the first time, ordered their accounts to be kept by a system of double entry. For three years preceding November, 1843, there had been no leger kept, and from 1843 to the period of our inquiry the leger that was kept omitted essential accounts, such, for instance, as a stock account, a general account of income and expenditure, separate estates and agent's accounts, an account for law agent, &c.; and there never had been a regular balance sheet struck, indicating the exact state of the finances of the Board. There had been no attempt at balancing the accounts for a period of eleven years. There was a divided and indefinite responsibility among the officers connected with the accounts. The solicitor of the Board supplied the form of accounts; the assistant registrar kept the accounts, but denied that he was the book-keeper; the registrar stated that he never had any thing to do with the accounts, and was not responsible for them; the treasurer and auditor, however, considered the registrar responsible, though aware at the same time that the accounts were kept by the assistant registrar; the treasurer and auditor confined himself to vouching the actual receipt and expenditure of money, not regarding the form in which the accounts were kept; he was not a book-keeper; he had never looked into the leger in his life, and did not believe he would be the wiser for having done so. The registrar knew nothing of the accounts except as far as the assistant registrar informed him; and the assistant registrar professed himself ignorant of what was meant by "double entry" in book-keeping, and could give no explanation of the term "assets."

Ev. 19382.
Ev. 23990, 24003.
Ev. 19075.
Ev. 24011.
Ev. 24249–50.
Ev. 24255–6.
Ev. 19621, *et seq.*
Ev. 19625.
Ev. 19309, 21575–7.
Ev. 19110.
Ev. 19328 *et seq.*

From this laxity there arose, however, no fraud or serious misapplication of the funds of the charity; but, through the error of the assistant registrar, a sum of £44 12*s.* 2*d.* was twice entered to the credit of the Calverstown School, with only one corresponding entry in the bank account, and so was suffered to remain until we pointed out the mistake, and the loss thereby to the Governors. There was, moreover, a sum of £1,811, the proceeds of the sale of portions of the school lands for railway purposes, the dividends arising from which had not been brought into account for seven years; the stock produced by this fund was not entered in the accounts, or treated as a special trust fund subject in common with the estates to the several trusts of the foundation, but was mixed up with their general stock account, over which they exercised an absolute disposing power.

Ev. 19267 *et seq.*
Ev. 24083 *et seq.*
Ev. 24249 *et seq.*

The irregularity and want of system which existed respecting the accounts of the Board were admitted at our Public Court, while it was at the same time alleged that the charity suffered nothing in consequence. "I think," says Mr. Barlow, the treasurer and auditor, "if you look to the body of men who have the government of this institution, you will find that the property of the charity, notwithstanding the system of keeping the accounts, is perfectly safe. I think, therefore, I am correct in saying there is no want of integrity on their part; but I do not at all dispute that our mode of keeping the accounts is not such as a

Ev. 19668.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

banker and merchant, or men of that class, would like; they would rather have them kept in a regular way."

While we concur with Mr. Barlow, that there is no want of integrity on the part of the Governors, we cannot at the same time avoid the conclusion that it is in spite of the system and mainly owing to this very integrity, coupled with the great experience and ability of individual members of the Board, and not the least so of Mr. Barlow himself, that the financial affairs of the charity are in a satisfactory state.

Vide p. 83, *supra*.

In connexion with the accounts of this Board, we have recommended that the office of Inspector of Schools should be disunited from that of Registrar; that the Registrar should be a man of business, conversant with public matters, acquainted with book-keeping, able to check the agent's accounts, and advise the Board as to the transaction of its business, without the constant presence of a solicitor; that the offices of Chairman, Treasurer, and Auditor, should be disunited; that the office of Paid Treasurer should be revived and some Governor appointed to it, who should attend the office regularly, in order to direct the Registrar, Inspector of Schools, and the Agents; that the audit of the accounts should not be intrusted to the Chairman, or any Governor, but should be transferred to the proposed Public Board of Audit.

With respect to the accounts of the Incorporated Society, we have to observe, that they were regularly kept, and audited upon the plan directed by the Society; but the form of keeping them was not such as to enable the Society to distinguish between their income and capital, a distinction required by the provisions of the Charter, and which a system of accounts by double entry alone would put them in a position to carry out. These accounts were simple statements of income and expenditure, and while they showed an income on funded property, failed to show the funded property itself. Under the system pursued, it was utterly impossible at any particular time to ascertain exactly the assets and liabilities of the Society. The system of audit adopted was entirely defective, consisting merely of the examination of vouchers of items of income and expenditure. The Rev. Mr. Abbott, who audited the accounts for 1849, 1850, and 1851, could not tell the pecuniary position of the Society for any one of those years. He believed, that, as auditor, he was responsible for correctness only so far as the documents placed before him were concerned; but thinks that such a statement should have been placed before him as would have enabled him to determine the question of the assets and liabilities of the Society. We believe that the system of audit by clergymen, who are not accountants or men of business, is necessarily defective; and we coincide in the opinion expressed by the Rev. Mr. Abbott, that auditing ought to be effected in a public office by responsible men of business; that it requires some moral courage to audit a friend's account; and that however high the character of a gentleman may be above suspicion, there is a temptation in cases which may be the subject of a doubt, to pass over lightly what may not be actually wrong. In the case of this charity, we have recommended that the accounts should be kept on a system of book-keeping by double entry, and that the audit of accounts should not be conducted by members of the Committee or by clergymen, but should be transferred to the proposed Public Board of Audit.

Ev. 21499.

Ev. 21482–3.

Vide p. 99, *supra*.

Vide p. 243, *infra*.

Ev. 21467.

With respect to the Commissioners of Education, we have elsewhere noticed that their accounts were never audited from the date of their foundation to the present time. This neglect on the part of the Commissioners existed, although one of their secretaries having died in 1827, in insolvent circumstances, it was discovered that he had, so early as 1816, appropriated certain trust funds reported in the same year by the Commissioners as having been converted into Government stock, and placed in the Bank of Ireland to the credit of the schools. He had thus carried on a fraudulent system of concealment for eleven years undetected. It also appeared, that since 1827, illegal charges had been constantly made on various charities. The expenses of visitation and law costs were by Act of Parliament chargeable on the Consolidated Fund, yet, we find some charities not only charged with their own expenses in this regard, but also made to pay the expenses of others. Banagher, Raphoe, Midleton, Eyrecourt, Clonmel, and some others, were thus charged with a sum of £596 0*s*. 4*d*. in 1829; and since then the Enniskillen estate has been charged for Banagher, and the Cavan estate for Carysfort, Dungannon, and Midleton; this last, it will be observed, not being even a Royal School. Both the solicitor and secretary to the Commissioners, who were examined before us, admitted that these charges were illegal.

Com. Ed. Ir. Rep. 1814–16, p. 3.

Ev. 23797, *et seq.*

Ev. 24843.

Ev. 23697, *et seq.*
Ev. 23795–6.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

It was the duty of the Commissioners, as the provisions of the Act under which they were constituted clearly show, to take an annual account of the assets and liabilites of the several Royal School estates. This they neglected to do. The law agent's accounts remained unfurnished for a period of nearly fourteen years, and when furnished, contained amongst other things, exorbitant charges for notices to quit, served, it appears, however, under circumstances sanctioned by the Board. Such charges could not have continued, and for so long a time, had the accounts been regularly audited by an independent auditor. A system of independent audit we are convinced is the only safety in this and all such cases; and we therefore recommend that the audit of the accounts of this Board be transferred to the proposed Public Board of Audit.

Ev. 23695–6.
Ev. 23604, *et seq.*

The Hibernian Marine School accounts were kept on a uniform system, and audited at the close of each year. We found, however, that the leger was imperfect, in so far as it did not contain the several separate accounts afterwards adopted at our suggestion. In 1847, the master absconded, leaving unaccounted for, a sum of £231 15*s.* 6*d.*, which should have been received and brought to account by the Registrar, which sum became a loss to the charity, with the exception of £33 4*s.* 6*d.*, which the Registrar was required to pay out of his salary. Though it is stated that this was the only defalcation suffered by the society during its operation since 1766, yet the possibility of such an occurrence indicates a laxity of audit, such as should not exist in the accounts of public charities. We recommend that the audit of the accounts of the society should be conducted by a Public Board of Audit.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. pp. 323–5.

In the accounts of Madame Mercer's School, we found somewhat more than the ordinary amount of error and confusion. The rental of the school estate is about £644 13*s.* 3*d.*, and the out-goings, under the heads salaries and wages, agent's fees, bailiffs, &c., come up to £330 7*s.* 5*d.*, or more than half the entire. It appears that the agent's fees were double the usual charges, that they were made on the gross rental, as also on the total amount of the debit side of the account, including balances remaining on hand, on which the fees had already been allowed and paid. Some of these balances were such large sums as £239 1*s.* 7*d.*, £154 3*s.* 6*d.*, and £225 12*s.* 10*d.* Agent's commission had also been allowed on stock sold out to meet the current expenditure of the school, on sums received for the maintenance of pay boarders, and even on money never received at all. The law costs on an average of the last twenty-five years are five per cent. on the gross income of the school. There was no rental of the estate kept, and the rents were entered in the cash book as received. A half year's dividend on stock, £5 3*s.* 10*d.*, was altogether omitted to have been credited to the school since 1827. On our drawing the attention of the Trustees to the above matters, some of the circumstances alluded to by us, were admitted as errors that ought not to have occurred, and should be remedied, while the justification of others of them was attempted. We recommend that the accounts of this charity should be kept by a system of double entry; that the several objectionable arrangements hitherto tolerated with reference to the management of its funds be altered; that all unnecessary burdens on the income of the charity, preventing it from being as efficient as may be in discharging the benevolent intentions of its founder, be removed; and that the audit of its accounts be transferred to a Public Board of Audit.

Ibid. pp. 326–8.

As has been already stated, the accounts of Wilson's Hospital and Morgan's Schools were referred to the Inspector of Estates for his consideration. It appears, from his report, which is given in full elsewhere, that—

Vide p. 228 *supra.*

"The accounts between Mr. Hamilton and the Trustees have been furnished about the 20th of November in each year. This account also seems to be kept very accurately; but, as Mr. Hickson observes, it includes on one side the receipts for rents due up to the 1st of November in the preceding year, omitting any sums which may have been received on account of the May rents; and on the other side of the accounts, it includes payments made to 31st July. This is not a correct way of making out an account, for both sides should be brought down to the same date. The accounts seem to have been made out in this way for upwards of thirty years, and, perhaps, much longer. It does not seem to me that the accounts were kept in that way for the purpose of making the balance in the Trustees' hands appear small, but because the 31st July was the usual period to which the accounts with the master of the hospital were settled."

Appendix, pp. 47–9.

"The balance now shown is, of course, much less than the balance in favour of the Trustees is at the end of November, just after the greater part of the May

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rents have heen collected ; but, on the other hand, it is greater than the balance is at some parts of the year : in other words, though the balance shown is not the maximum balance in the hands of the agent, neither is it the minimum.

"There appears to have been generally a considerable balance in Mr. Hamilton's hands. This should not be in the case of a mere agent, whose duty it would be to lodge the money in the bank to the credit of the Trustees, from time to time, as he received it ; but Mr. Hamilton has acted as Treasurer and Banker, as well as agent, to the Trustees in these cases ; and, as he had to make payments from time to time, on account of the charity, it was necessary he should have funds in his hands to meet these demands, unless the Trustees should attend to draw cheques on the bank when required. It does, however, appear that the balance in Mr. Hamilton's hands was generally from one to two thousand pounds more than was required for the purpose of meeting the demands upon him : on some occasions, it even exceeded two thousand pounds."

The Inspector of Estates recommends that "in addition to the annual account which is at present laid before the Trustees, the cash account, which is regularly kept by Mr. Hamilton, and which shows all the receipts and expenditure for the trust, should be balanced up to the end of each month, and also laid before the Trustees ; this would show the amount of the balance in the Treasurer's hands above what was required to meet current expenditure, and so enable them to judge of the propriety of having it invested, or of directing an increase of expenditure.

"With respect to Morgan's charity, the case is somewhat different. That account is balanced up to the 1st of November in each year, and all the payments made till that date are charged on one side, and no sum received on account of the preceding May rent is credited on the other side ; in fact, very little, if any, of the May rent has been then received, but the greater part of it is received in the month of November.

"The effect of balancing the accounts at that particular time is, that the balance in Mr. Hamilton's hands is nearly at its minimum ; two or three weeks later the balance would be increased by the amount of half a year's rent then received. This mode of keeping the accounts was attended with some loss to the trust funds prior to 1849 ; for, before that time, the balance struck at the 1st of November in each year was to the debit of the Trustees, and interest on that amount for the year is charged in the accounts for the next year : whereas, if the accounts had been balanced to the 20th of November, instead of the 1st, the balance would have been on the other side of the account." "The amount charged for interest, in the years 1846 to 1849, is not considerable. If, however, an interest account had been kept as merchants would keep it, allowing interest to the Trustees when the balance was in their favour, and charging interest when the balance was against them, it is probable that for some of these years, instead of having to pay interest, the Trustees would have received interest ; and if the account had been kept as a banker would keep it—that is, not allowing any interest when the balance was in favour of the Trustees, but charging interest only on whatever balance there was from time to time to their debit, the amount chargeable against the trustees for those years would have been reduced. It appears to me that the accounts in this case should have been kept in the latter manner—that is, treating Mr. Hamilton as the banker for the charity."

We concur entirely in these recommendations of our Inspector of Estates.

A Board, it appears to us, consisting of persons unacquainted with accounts, can never be safely intrusted with the important and responsible duty of examining and auditing the accounts of its various officers. Audit, to be efficient, must be publicly conducted by a competent and independent Board, and to such we recommend that the audit of the accounts of these charities be transferred.

Ev. 21957.

We examined Mr. Addison Hone, at our Public Court, with reference to the financial affairs of the Blue Coat Hospital, Dublin. His duties as Registrar comprised general control of the establishment, receiving the rents and keeping the accounts. A blotter, a leger of disbursements, and a leger of tenant's accounts, appear to constitute the books of account of the institution. The blotter, which is made to serve as a cash-book, is totted in pencil, not balanced, irregularly posted in the disbursement leger, and fails to show the actual cash balances on hands or in bank. The leger of disbursements, which it is intended should supply the place of a general leger, contains no general annual income and expenditure, bank, funded property, or bequests' accounts ; and for several

years past, accounts of rent received, casual revenue, general expenditure, law expenditure, &c., have been discontinued; it has been irregularly kept, and, in some instances, does not anywhere show items charged in the annual statements which profess to be made up from it. In the leger of tenant's accounts, the accounts of each estate are mixed up indiscriminately. The accounts with the agent of the Noddstown estate were in arrear since 1850, and the funded property account, which should not have been in this book at all, was in arrear since October, 1853. The books do not show that the annual accounts were duly examined and audited; and any audit that did take place was from simple vouchers of income and expenditure. In 1844, Mr. O'Brien, a professional accountant, was employed by the Governors to make out such a correct rental and statement of the property of the institution as would enable the Governors to see what ought to be the sources of their income, and also to put five years' accounts, then in arrear, into such a state as to pass the Government audit. Mr. O'Brien made many valuable recommendations with reference to the accounts and property of the school, which appear to have been very little attended to. The serious mismanagement of the funds of this charity, resulting in the loss of portions of its property, themselves considerable endowments, as well in the earlier periods of its existence as within the last few years, and the difficulty experienced in even detecting the occurrence of such losses, owing to the imperfect system of accounts, and the culpable neglect of providing an accurate and sufficient register of the property of the institution, have been already treated of in detail.

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Ev. 22412.

Vide, p. 149, *supra*.

In connexion with the accounts of the Blue Coat Hospital, we addressed a communication to the Commissioners for Auditing Public Accounts in London, which led to our bringing the state of the charity under the notice of the Lord Commissioners of your Majesty's Treasury. The correspondence is given among the documents appended to the evidence. The Lords Commissioners stated in reply to our communication, that much difficulty was found to exist in establishing an efficient system of audit by the Board in London, with regard to Municipal Corporations and certain endowed schools in Ireland, and that further proceedings on the subject were dropped. The Lords Commissioners at the same time directed that the difficulties referred to should be communicated to us, and were pleased to observe that it might properly form a subject of our consideration, what remedial measures could be adopted in the case of endowed schools, for the proper examination of their accounts. We accordingly took the matter into our consideration, and found that the system of audit provided by the Municipal Corporation Reform Act for the Blue Coat Hospital has failed. The result of our investigation we have already stated at large.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 329.

Vide p. 142, *supra*.

The facts which have come to our knowledge, respecting the accounts of the several charities into which we have inquired, disclosing, as they do, misapplication of funds or their loss, ignorance, error, and systematic neglect, impairing and not unfrequently paralysing the efficiency of institutions, the monuments of public or private munificence, abundantly prove the necessity for the constant and strict exercise of an external and independent supervision, to control and direct their financial affairs, and thereby save them from the mismanagement and loss to which they are from their very nature at present so much exposed. A uniform system of accounts by double entry, kept with regularity and in accordance with a definite plan, would prevent many of the abuses now existing, and to which we have adverted.

A necessary condition to the existence of such a system, is the establishment of a Public Board of Audit.

We have already expressed our opinion that such a Board should be established in Dublin, either as a separate Board of Audit, or as a branch of the general Board of Audit; the expense of which need not be incurred for endowed schools alone, inasmuch as the audit of accounts of other local institutions, such as the Municipal Corporations, may advantageously be included in its duties. We have also recommended that the proposed Board of Audit should have the additional powers suggested by the Commissioners of Audit in London, of enforcing the transmission of accounts and vouchers, of surcharging in case of default, of prosecuting defaulters and recovering balances; and that these powers should be given to the Board directly, without any reference to the Lord Lieutenant or the Secretary of State, save in so far as they should be obliged to make periodical reports to the Lord Lieutenant, to be laid before Parliament when required.

Vide p. 158, *supra*.

Ibid.

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In consequence of having received evidence indicating unsatisfactory management of the estates under the charge of some of the public Boards, and also under the charge of private Trustees, his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant was, on our application, authorized by your Majesty's Secretary for Home Affairs to appoint an Inspector of Estates, to inquire into the general management of the landed property under the care of Boards having charge of Endowed Schools, and the estates belonging to Endowed Schools in Ireland.

His Excellency selected James William Murland, Esq., for this office, who proceeded to inspect, in accordance with our letter of instructions, the following classes of estates:—

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 402.

1. Estates under the management of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland.

2. Estates under the management of the Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, Esq.

3. Estates of the Incorporated Society in Dublin, for Promoting English Protestant Schools in Ireland.

4. Other estates belonging to Endowed Schools in Ireland, comprising—
   First, Wilson's Hospital Estate.
   Secondly, Morgan's Schools Estate.
   Thirdly, Bishop Foy's School Estate.
   Fourthly, the Estate of the Hospital and Free School of King Charles II., Dublin, commonly called the Blue Coat Hospital.

In our letter of instructions we stated the object of the inspection to be, to ascertain whether the estates constituting the endowments of schools in Ireland are as well managed as the estates of a prudent proprietor would be by an agent under his direction.

We also requested the Inspector to state his general impression as to the management of each property, and to mention any improvements that the inspection suggested to him.

Appendix, p. 21.

In the Appendix to our Report we have given the Reports of the Inspector in full.

1. *Estates under the Management of Commissioners of Education in Ireland.*

With respect to the Dungannon Royal School Estate, the Inspector brought under our notice a system, which he strongly condemned, of serving periodical notices to quit, at great expense to the charity. We made this a subject of inquiry at our public Courts, held in Dublin on the 10th and 11th of November, 1856, and found that in March, 1847, a charge of £91 was made for filling up notices to quit, for service on all the tenants on the estate, in pursuance of a practice which had continued for many years; that there was due in November, 1846, by 142 tenants, £441 0*s.* 8*d.*, the largest amount then owing by any one tenant being £11 2*s.* 4*d.*, and the smallest, 6*s.* 5*d.*; that, taking the tenants on the Dungannon Charity Estate to be, in round numbers, 350, there were 208 tenants who at that period were not one farthing in arrear, yet that, in March, 1847, the year of the famine, they were all served with notices to quit. The course thus indicated was systematically pursued from 1843 to 1853, when the Commissioners directed that in future no notices to quit should be served on tenants who paid their rents. This system was, in our opinion, both unjust and impolitic, since it placed the punctual and deserving on the same level with the negligent and dishonest tenant. It also directly tended to produce one of the worst evils which, as the Inspector has justly remarked, attends the actual accumulation of arrears, namely, that the tenant who knows that he may at any time be evicted, suffers his houses and farm to go to ruin. In addition to this objectionable system the charge made by the Commissioner's solicitor, for filling up the notices, was altogether exorbitant. We, therefore, concur with the Inspector in his condemnation of these proceedings, and agree with him in thinking that notices to quit should only have been served on defaulters, and that "the proper course was to have one form settled by the solicitor and the others printed and filled up in the agent's office."

Ev. 23550, *et seq.* 23739, 23852, &c. 23868, &c.

Ev. 23550, 23891.

Appendix, p. 23.

In other respects the Inspector expresses his satisfaction with the management of the property by the late and present local agents, having regard,

especially, to the extent of bog and waste on this property, the difficulties occasioned by the number of small holdings, and the deterioration of the property which took place during the continuance of a lease of the entire estate, which only terminated in 1831. The Inspector points out, that the tenantry residing on the townland of Derrytresk have no school sufficiently near for the convenient attendance of their children, and recommends that steps should be taken "to have a national school established within the reach of the children on that part of the estate." With reference to this subject he makes the general observation, that "an estate cannot be well managed when the tenants' children have not some means of education within their reach." We concur in this view on the grounds thus advocated as well as for reasons which are no less obligatory on public boards than on private individuals who are landlords, and we recommend the adoption of the suggestion made by the Inspector in the foregoing as well as other cases. Appendix, p. 53.

In relation to the Armagh Royal School Estate, the Inspector notices some improvements effected under the directions of the Commissioners, and the generally satisfactory condition of the property; and observes that the Commissioners have erected a school for the children of the tenantry. He reports, however, that the tenants are greatly in arrear, and that these arrears have been allowed to accumulate from 1845 to 1855. He recommends that some measures should be taken to diminish the amount of the arrears. We remark in this, as in other respects, a want of uniformity in the management of the properties under the Commissioners of Education with reference to matters essentially common to all. Thus, in the interval between the years 1846 and 1852 various abatements were made to the tenants on the Dungannon Estate, amounting, however, on the whole only to one half year's rent, and on it there are no arrears. No such abatement, however, has been made as to the holdings on the Armagh Estate, in respect of which the arrears now due accrued during the same period. We concur with the Inspector in thinking that the same abatements should be allowed; that proceedings should be taken for the removal of such tenants as are unable to pay the residue of the rent due; and that care should be taken not to allow the arrears to accumulate for the future. Ibid. p. 24. Ibid. pp. 22, 24.

The Commissioners of Education have, in our opinion, shown a censurable neglect with regard to the Enniskillen Royal School Estate, the arrears due upon it when the agent furnished his account, in October, 1855, amounting to £9,231 9*s.* 0½*d.*, a sum equal to nearly four and a-half years' rent of the whole property, while as much as seven, eight, and nine years' rent were then owing on many individual holdings. Moreover, allowances had been from time to time made to the tenants. We think that such a state of things affords clear evidence of gross mismanagement, and are of opinion that the agent of this estate should be dismissed. In addition to the evils thus arising to the charity, both directly from loss of income, and indirectly from the unimproving state of the tenantry, necessarily incident to such an accumulation of debt, this mismanagement has produced a further mischievous result. The Inspector observes in reference to this, "In consequence of the tenant being in arrears the receipts for rent were only given on account, and no receipts were given up to a particular date, so that it was difficult for the tenants to know how they stood as to arrears, and also to check the agent's accounts." We concur with him in condemning this practice on both the above grounds, and think that the receipts should always indicate the gale day up to which the rent is paid. Ibid. p. 25.

The Inspector of Estates suggests a plan for getting rid of the large arrears above stated, which ought, in our opinion, to be adopted where the circumstances of the tenant require it. It consists in abandoning all arrears due for more than six years; in giving receipts in full for all rent accrued due within that period, on payment of £50 per cent.; and, in allowing those who are unable to pay up even the one-half of their arrears in money, to satisfy the debt by executing such improvements on their farms as may be marked out for them; all tenants, however, who do not choose to liquidate the arrears in one of these ways, to be removed from the estate. The Inspector points out the want of sufficient school accommodation for the children of the tenantry on this estate; and particularly remarks the defects of the schoolhouse at Rosdoney. We think the Commissioners ought to turn their attention to this subject, with a view to remedy the defects thus indicated. The subdivision of farms is also noted by the Inspector, as being another of the causes which have produced the present deteriorated condition of Ibid. p. 27.

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these lands. There being no leases on this estate, this may the more easily be remedied by energetic and judicious management on the part of the agent. To this end the Inspector recommends the adoption of the following plan, in which we concur: "Notice should be given that no tenant would be allowed, either by will or otherwise, to divide his holding; and that no tenant would be permitted to transfer his holding without first having obtained the assent of the agent, whose duty it would be in such cases to make him transfer his holding to the nearest tenant who might be able to manage it, so as to tend, as much as possible, to the consolidation of farms; these rules to be strictly enforced, by ejecting any tenant who might violate them."

Having regard to the bad condition of this estate, the Inspector recommends that an experienced agriculturist should be employed for several years, to reside upon it, and superintend the execution of improvements approved of by the agent, whether undertaken in discharge of arrears of rent, as above suggested, or as part of a general system of thorough draining instituted by the landlord; the tenants to be, in the latter case, charged with an increased rent, equal to five per cent. on the money so expended. We are of opinion that this suggestion merits the attentive consideration of the Commissioners of Education.

Appendix, p. 27. The observations of the Inspector, which we have quoted, as to the arrears and subdivision of holdings on the Enniskillen property apply as well to the Cavan Royal School Estate, which is under the same agent; and we concur with him in recommending the adoption, in the latter case also, of the above mode of clearing off the arrears and preventing subdivision.

Ibid. p. 29. The Raphoe Royal School Estate long presented a very discouraging state of things, the tenantry being very poor and insubordinate, and the land unimproved. Its existing state seems to be considerably better and promises still further amendment; but the Inspector represents it as being not yet satisfactory. He particularly calls attention to the importance, in relation to such a property, of encouraging improvements, and providing efficient tenantry schools; and urges the necessity for great care and vigilance on the part of the agents intrusted with the management of the property. The arrears on this estate are equal to nearly three years' rent, and we agree with the Inspector that steps should be taken to prevent their further accumulation; for which purpose the plan recommended above might with advantage be adopted in case a full liquidation of the rent now due could not be obtained.

Ibid. p. 30. The Inspector reports that the Banagher Royal School Estate is let below its fair value at present, and considerably below its former rate of letting. The history of this property, when under the late agent, is indicative of bad management. The accounts for the years from 1842 to 1849 were not entered up in the agent's account book; large arrears were lost about the year 1849; and, finally, the agent was dismissed as a defaulter for sums which the Commissioners of Education failed to recover from the surety. The estate being then relet at a period of distress, the rents reserved were considerably below the present value. There are no leases on this property. The Inspector advises "that the estate should be revalued, with a view to its being relet, not charging the tenants for their recent improvements." In this recommendation we concur, and we are of opinion that great energy and perseverance and judicious management will be needed on the part of the local agent, in order to bring this property into a prosperous condition.

Ibid. p. 32. The observations we have just made with reference to the Banagher property are equally applicable to that of the Clonmel School. The impoverished state and subdivision of the land, when, on the expiration of the subsisting lease, in 1841, the Commissioners obtained possession, occasioned the reletting of it, in subsequent years, at very reduced rents. The Inspector is of opinion that "the fair letting value of the estate is probably about £500 per annum;" but he observes that considerable portions of the property have been set on leases for twenty-one years, made in 1851 and 1852. We concur in his recommendation, that the holdings out of lease should be relet at a moderate letting value—not charging for any improvements recently made, and that the tenants should be called on to pay according to such valuation.

Ibid. p. 52. The Inspector of Estates, in his General Report, notices that the estates under the Commissioners of Education were, when placed under their management about forty years ago, "in a most neglected and unsatisfactory condition." This seems to have been chiefly owing to the circumstance that these lands had been long in the hands of middlemen, who held them only on short leases and were in no way

restrained from subletting, as has been particularly noticed with respect to the Enniskillen and Dungannon Estates. Most of the properties were valued by the Commissioners in 1816, yet the lands are, in some cases, now let at a rate "much below the valuation which was then made," a remark which particularly applies to the Banagher and Clonmel Estates. The Commissioners appointed local agents for each estate according as it fell out of lease, and so far as the Inspector observes, "the course pursued was judicious." We concur, however, with him in thinking that this measure "should have been followed up by some provision for inspecting the estates occasionally, to see that the local agents did their duty." The absence of such a system of supervision and control produced injurious results of a two-fold nature. In the first place, the local agents selected differing very much in point of character and intelligence, "where the Commissioners were unfortunate in their choice, the estates have remained in the same very unsatisfactory condition in which they came into their hands." In such cases arrears have been allowed to accumulate, the tenants have been given receipts on account only, the agents have not kept and delivered proper accounts, and the properties have remained unimproved. In the second place, we must attribute to the same cause the want of a sufficient uniformity in many matters equally affecting the management of all the estates. Thus, for example, on some, improvements have been made or encouraged by the Commissioners; the payment of rents at a proper valuation, and the rendering of accounts by the agents has been attended to; the subdivision of land has been prevented, and convenient schools have been provided for the tenantry; while on others, all these matters have been disregarded. We shall notice hereafter the general remedies which we recommend for the future avoidance of these and similar errors in the management of school estates. We also concur with the Inspector, in thinking that the leasing powers of the Commissioners are insufficient, it being a matter open to considerable doubt whether even the powers of granting agricultural leases, which were vested in the Archbishop of Armagh, were transferred to, or could be properly exercised by, the former, regard being had to their nature and conditions.

Inspection of Estates.

10 Geo. I. ch. 9.
11 & 12 Geo. III. ch. 17, sec. 12.

2. *Estates under the Management of the Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, Esq.*

The Inspector has made a report to us on each of the estates forming the endowment of Erasmus Smith's Schools. We are of opinion that their management is, generally speaking, to be commended, but admits of improvement in some important respects. A greater uniformity is observable as regards these than with reference to the properties under the Commissioners of Education, and consequently, most of the defects pointed out by the Inspector, in his General Report, are found in all of them. The expenditure of the Governors in improvements, forms, however, an exception to this remark, for while "a large sum of money was expended on the southern estates during the years from 1845 to 1850, in drainage work and other improvements," on the western estates no expenditure worth noticing has been made for this purpose.

Appendix, p. 33.

Ibid. p. 53.

The Inspector reports that "the present agents appear to discharge their duties in a satisfactory manner;" but he observes that "until about twenty years ago, the estates were for the most part let to middlemen," The leases thus granted contained no clauses prohibiting the subletting and exhaustion of the land; an omission which, no doubt, contributed greatly to the impoverished state of the property, and the excessive smallness of the holdings which existed when the estate fell into the possession of the Governors. The Inspector points out that the same defective form of lease is still in use on these estates, and we concur in his recommendation that it should be altered in the above two respects.

The course pursued by the Governors in renewing leases appears to have been just and prudent; the land being valued at the expiration of the term, and "a new lease granted to the former lessee at the fair letting value of the land, not charging for buildings erected by the tenant at his own expense." In consequence of this, as the Inspector states, "very valuable houses have in some cases been erected on lands which were held by lease for only twenty-one years, the tenants confiding in the justice of the Governors." We concur, however, with him, in recommending that powers of granting building leases for a long term of years, and with proper building covenants, should be conferred on the Governors.

We think that it is not desirable or safe to intrust the exercise of leasing

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We concur in the general views of the Inspector thus indicated respecting the management of the school estates. With respect to the last-mentioned recommendation, we are of opinion that the proposed Board of Endowed Schools should be empowered, as to all estates under its jurisdiction, to grant agricultural leases for the term of twenty-one years, and building leases for long terms; and that similar powers should, under proper precautions, be given to all boards and trustees having estates for endowed schools under their management.

The Inspector, in conclusion, observes, that "the arrangement for the efficient management of these estates, which appears to him of paramount importance, is the careful selection of experienced agents, acting under inspection, so that the estates may be managed as nearly as possible in the way in which a judicious landlord would manage his own property."

We concur in this view, and are of opinion that the inspection of each estate ought to take place annually, and to be such as a prudent landlord would make of his own estate. The person to conduct the inspection ought, therefore, to hold such a position as to command the respect of the agent and tenants.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. p. 364.

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Commissioners of 1791, a Board was established by Act of Parliament in 1813, for the superintendence and control of endowed schools, under the name of the "Commissioners of Education in Ireland."

53 Geo. III. c. 107. 3 Geo. IV. c. 79. 1 Wm. IV. c. 56. *Vide*, pp. 21, 104, *supra*. Ev. 21127-8.

By subsequent Acts, the constitution of this Board was altered, and its powers —to which we have already referred—were enlarged. Under the first of the above-mentioned Acts it was composed of the following persons:—The Lord Primate, the Lord Chancellor, the Archbishop of Dublin, the Archbishop of Tuam, and the respective coadjutors of the Primate and Archbishops; the Chief Justice of the King's Bench, the Provost of Trinity College; and also four of the Bishops of Ireland, to be appointed from time to time by the Lord Lieutenant (one Bishop for each province in Ireland); together with four other proper and discreet persons, whom the Lord Lieutenant should think fit to appoint to be Commissioners; such four bishops, and four other persons so appointed by the Lord Lieutenant, to be renewable at his pleasure.

Ev. 21127.

The subsequent Act of 3 Geo. IV. ch. 79, modified the constitution of the Board, by the addition of the Archbishop of Cashel and his coadjutor, the Chief Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant, and the member chosen to serve in Parliament for Trinity College, Dublin, for the time being; and authorized the Lord Lieutenant to appoint "two other proper and discreet persons who should be usually resident in the city of Dublin."

The Diocesan Schools and the Royal Schools were placed under the care of the Commissioners, and their attention was particularly directed to various Grammar and English Schools, which had been reported on by the Commissioners of 1807–12.

The schools exempted from the supervision and control of the Board thus constituted, comprised all the principal classes of exclusive schools—the Erasmus Smith's, the Protestant Charter or Incorporated Society's, and the Parochial Schools, all schools of private foundation for the education of persons professing any religious persuasion other than that of the United Church of England and Ireland, and those under the inspection of visitors appointed by Act of Parliament or Charter. With these exceptions, the authority of the Board extended over all school endowments, both of public and private foundation in Ireland.

The Commissioners were intrusted with very large powers of visiting and controlling the masters and other persons concerned in the management of schools. They were also empowered to depute assistant visitors to act in their stead, and to appoint a secretary and other subordinate paid officers.

For the purpose of rendering their visitations more effective and of giving full scope to their general jurisdiction, the Commissioners were authorized to make orders for the better regulation of the schools placed under them. The Act of 53 Geo. III. ch. 107, provided for the enforcement of these through the instrumentality of the Court of Chancery, upon the matter being brought before it in a summary way. The same court was also empowered, on the appli-

cation of the Commissioners, to remove the trustees of mismanaged schools, and to vest their property and management in the Commissioners or other trustees. The appointment of masters was left in the hands of those who previously possessed this power; but the Commissioners were enabled to dismiss them for misconduct, and the preamble of the 53 Geo. III., ch. 107, in reciting the objects for which the Board was instituted, expressly included among these, "the control of the masters and other persons concerned in the management and direction of the endowed schools in Ireland."

The jurisdiction of the Commissioners, therefore, embraced three classes of endowed schools, viz., the Diocesan Free Schools, the Royal Free Schools, and (with the exceptions above stated) those of private foundation. In the previous part of our report, we have noticed each of these in detail; we shall now, therefore, only very briefly refer to some of the more salient points in their management.

We have noticed the evil effects produced in Diocesan schools by the system of divided responsibility, under which the Commissioners, though nominally charged with the care of them, neither have the right of appointing, promoting, or superannuating the masters, nor possess adequate powers of providing for the due maintenance of the teachers and the repairs of the schoolhouses. To a considerable extent, therefore, the gradual decline and present inefficient state of most of these schools, the diminution in the attendance at some of them, and the total cessation of others, may be attributed to causes for the operation of which the Commissioners were not directly responsible. We think, however, that greater and more systematic efforts might, and had the Board been properly constituted, in all probability would, have been made to keep these schools in an efficient state; since the Commissioners are possessed of powers which, if duly exercised, would have tended to arrest their downward course. We refer especially to two important branches of their jurisdiction, the obligation imposed on them by statute of making visitations; and the duty of enforcing attention to the directions of the founders, more particularly as regards the rights of pupils to free admission. With reference to the first of these duties, it has never been performed for these schools by any members of the Board in person, and very rarely by deputy, although it appears by a return furnished at our request that several complaints relative to Diocesan Free Schools have been made to them by the clergy of the diocese and other local parties. As regards the second omission, it is remarkable, that in the year 1830, the Commissioners did issue a circular to the masters, upon the question of the right of free day scholars to be admitted to the Diocesan Schools; but no effectual steps were taken for enforcing the observance of any rules on the subject, and even the fact that such a circular had been issued seems not only to have been permitted to drop out of the recollection of the masters, but to have been forgotten by the Board itself.

Vide p. 43, *supra*.

Ev. 21178, 21345.

Ev. 21311, 21317, 21336.

Ev. 21333–34, 21369–70.

Ev. 21224, &c. 21352, &c. 21231–41, 21298, &c. 21316, &c. 21322, &c.

Ev. 21328, 21331.

Ev. 21214, &c.

Ev. 21216.

With reference to the management of the Royal Free Schools, we have already pointed out the unsatisfactory state in which the question of free admissions has been left by the Commissioners, and the imperfect manner in which they have exercised their powers of inspection, as well as those specially given with a view to the maintenance of all the schoolhouses in a proper state of repair; omissions which are, in our opinion, the more censurable, as the Commissioners seem always to have devoted a greater share of time and attention to the affairs of the Royal, than to those of the Diocesan Schools. We have also noticed the disregard shown by the Board to the primary object of the Royal Schools, considered as non-exclusive endowments, in not having at a sufficiently early period laid down and promulgated rules as to the course of religious instruction consistent with the admission of all denominations to the enjoyment of benefits designed for the entire community. We think, too, that these endowments might have been rendered more generally useful, as well as more conformable to the intentions of their royal founders, by making such arrangements respecting the course of instruction and the fees as would have thrown the schools open to a greater number of day pupils.

Vide p. 63, *supra*.

Ev. 21208.

Ev. 21222.

Ev. 21277.

Ev. 21261, &c.

As regards the schools of private endowment under the Commissioners, the absence of any systematic visitation or inspection, and the neglect to take efficient steps for carrying out the intentions of the founders respecting free admissions, are likewise very remarkable. We have also pointed out their disregard of the statutory provisions by which they were authorized, and, therefore, by necessary implication, enjoined to extend their care to private endowments, founded at any time since the passing of the 53 of Geo. III., ch. 107, subject only to the class of

Vide p. 121, *supra*.

3 Geo. IV. c. 79, sec. 11.

Ev. 21291.

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exceptions pointed out in this Statute. The number of schools thus overlooked is very considerable, and Mr. Crawford has described the state of those which he visited, in the following terms, which are, we regret to say, generally speaking, applicable to the entire class:—

Appendix, p. 3.

"The only distinction, practically, between these schools and private schools is the enjoyment by the masters of the endowment permanently attached to the school, the amount of which is independent of the usefulness of the school. I do not find that the Commissioners of Education ever actively interfere with the management of the schools. The efficiency of these schools depends, in a great degree, on the efficiency or the inefficiency of the master, and the locality of the school. The appointment of the masters is generally vested in private persons; and, unless that power is interfered with or controlled, I see no hope that any great improvement can take place in this class of schools. The Commissioners of Education have a power of deprivation for misconduct; but this would not meet the case of such a school as Lismore Endowed School, where there is not a single pupil, and yet no positive misconduct or incompetency could be proved against the master. I believe that what in his case is wanted is such a stimulant to exertion as the danger of being deprived of any part of his endowment would be.

"The circumstances of Clonmel Endowed School will be found detailed in my report on it. It is in an unsatisfactory state, into which the Commissioners of Education did institute an inquiry, but, it would appear, without result. The circumstances of the master, which preclude him from going out of the precincts of the school, except on Sundays, prevent any hope that the school can ever, during his incumbency, be restored to efficiency; but he is in receipt of a handsome salary. In the meantime, the benefit of a large expenditure in erecting a house which is almost useless, is lost, and the character of the school damaged."

Having thus adverted to the proceedings of the Commissioners of Education, in relation to the several classes of schools placed under their care, we proceed to notice their management of the school estates; their mode of conducting the business of the Board; and the manner in which they have understood and practised the obligations imposed on them by the Legislature as to the application of the endowments to educational purposes.

Ev. 21151, &c. 21163.

It is of particular importance to consider the working of the Board with reference to the first point, since the business transacted by the Commissioners appears to have been more of a financial than an educational character.

Vide p. 234, *supra*.

We have already called attention to the defective manner in which the Royal School properties have, in various particulars, been managed by them. The plan of appointing local agents was judicious; but we think that, in addition to this arrangement, systematic inspection, conducted by a qualified agent of the Board, and occasionally by some of the Commissioners themselves, was essential. Little was done or even attempted in this way by the Board, the consequence being that correspondence was resorted to, in cases where personal examination and intercourse could alone be effectual. Complaints of tenants, and other matters of a like nature, being presented, in the shape of memorials, the practice has arisen of referring them to a few of the Commissioners, whose habits and avocations were supposed to qualify them for forming a correct judgment on such subjects, and by their opinion the Board has been guided. Personal inspections have been adopted to a very limited extent, and the duty of making these has been confided to but one member of the Board, and even this has been done as to only two of the estates. It is sufficient here to refer to our previous remarks, upon the want of uniformity in the mode of managing the Royal School estates—the accumulation of arrears on some, and the absence of proper school accommodation for the tenantry on others of these properties—and the long continued custom of serving notices to quit on tenants who were not in arrear. The solicitor of the Board was also permitted by the Commissioners to make an exorbitant charge for drawing these notices. This practice, as appears in evidence, was not merely tolerated but sanctioned by the Commissioners until 1853, at which time law costs to the amount of £750 had been incurred for this single item. In relation to the same matter, that absence of uniformity, which so frequently characterizes the proceedings of the Commissioners, is observable, for we find that within the period of twenty-two years the solicitors were permitted to make charges for preparing those notices according to five different rates.

Ev. 21156, &c. 21412.

Ev. 21151–3–9, 21412–9.

Ev. 21154–7–8.

Ev. 21166, &c. 21394, &c. 21402, &c. 23549, &c. 23609, &c. 23621–5–6, 23644, &c. 23657, 23734, &c. 23742–52.

Ev. 23686–91.

Ev. 21091–3.

In connexion with this part of the Commissioners' business we notice that it was

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The whole course of our inquiries has convinced us that a careful attention to the preservation of foundation deeds and other documents of the same nature, is most important in relation to educational charities; and we are of opinion that the omission of the Commissioners of Education to take charge of all such as belonged to schools whose properties were vested in them, and to keep a full and accurate record of the muniments of those placed under their supervision, was a serious oversight, and one that proved how imperfectly they had apprehended the real meaning and policy of the Legislature.

Ev. 21328.

We are obliged to notice another very grave neglect on the part of the Board with reference to the scanty number of visitations held by them, either in person or by deputy. We obtained from their Secretary a return of the visitations or inquiries held by the Commissioners of Education from the 24th of February, 1835 (being the date of that gentleman's appointment) down to the 10th of November, 1856, showing also the expenses of each inquiry, the number of cases in which inquiries had been refused, the names of the complainants, and those of their schools against which the complaints were made. From this document it appears that, during the above period of more than twenty years, inquiry was demanded in the case of nineteen different schools—Royal, Diocesan, and private,—by various parties, who, generally speaking, were persons likely, from their vicinity to the institutions and position in society, to be well informed as to the necessity for the step they asked the Commissioners to take in the interest of the public and for the promotion of education. It is stated to us in the above-mentioned return that none of the inquiries thus sought were refused. In point of fact, however, it, appears, that in eleven of these nineteen cases, no visitation, either in person or by deputy, was ever made; that except in the cases of schools that had no funds, the Commissioners never exercised their statutory right of charging the cost of visitations as incidental expenses of the Board upon the Consolidated Fund; that the expenses of the few visitations that did take place were usually charged to the account of the separate endowments of the schools inquired into, and still remain, in several instances, not only unpaid but untaxed; and finally, that the complainant himself was, in one instance, called upon to pay, and in fact did pay the expenses of an inquiry—the result of which abundantly showed how much it was needed—a proceeding assuredly but little calculated to encourage applications of a similar nature.

Ev. 21179, 21181, &c. 23765, &c. 23778, &c. 23838.

Ev. 23712.

Vide p. 110, *supra*.

We have already adverted to the absence of business-like habits, and a proper degree of uniformity, as characterizing the Commissioners' management of their estates, and, in an equal degree, that of the schools placed under their care. We have likewise noticed the manner in which they have overlooked important questions, such, for example, as the admission of free scholars; the promulgation of general rules for the guidance of masters; the making adequate provision for children residing sufficiently near the schools to attend them as day pupils; and the adaptation of the course of instruction to the educational wants of the middle classes.

Ev. 23729, &c. 23838, &c. 21197, 21208, 21210, &c. 21266, 21274.

We have also pointed out, that the Commissioners have not acted on any settled principle, with respect to the charging of incidental expenses on the Consolidated Fund, and that they have placed to the account of individual endowments considerable items of expenditure, which ought to have been defrayed out of the general taxes.

Ev. 23770, &c. 23838, &c.

It further appears that the Commissioners exercised no sufficient supervision or control over their solicitor, having not only permitted him to frame his bills of costs on a principle at variance with the true meaning and object of the Statute of 53 Geo. III. ch. 107, but also, in contravention of their own express order, allowed him to neglect sending in his account for taxation during a period of thirteen years.

Ev. 23677, 23599.

We next proceed to consider the causes which have produced the inefficiency of the Board of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, and occasioned its failure as an institution for the promotion of education.

The first and principal of these lay, we think, in the constitution of the Board. This was, in our opinion, ill-adapted for carrying out the objects proposed by the Legislature. We have previously stated its component members; the majority of them, it will be observed, are *ex officio* members, already charged with onerous duties, the performance of which must, necessarily, absorb the greater portion of their time, and effectually prevent their paying such attention to the business of the Board as would be required for its efficient discharge. Of the six Commissioners who have been appointed by the Lord Lieutenant two do not reside in

Ev. 21129, &c. 21149, 21161.

Dublin, so that the number of resident members who do not hold their position *ex officio* is only four.

To this it must be added that none of the Commissioners are paid for their services, their office being purely honorary.

Ev. 21129, 21202.

Their number is, no doubt, considerable; too large indeed, we think, for the efficient constitution of such a body. Nevertheless, the attendance of the members at the board meetings has been uncertain and irregular, and, for some years past, increasingly so. It was stated to us in evidence by Dr. Kyle, the Secretary of the Board, that for the last few years it has been very difficult to procure the presence of the Commissioners, and that he has been frequently obliged to make personal solicitations to induce the members to come. The quorum necessary for the transaction of business is only three; yet, out of a Board consisting of seventeen persons, the number attending its meetings has often been reduced to this minimum, while the average attendance has been but three or four. The presence of one *ex officio* member is made essential, by statute, for the transaction of business; nevertheless, Dr. Kyle stated that there had latterly been a difficulty in securing the presence of even one such Commissioner.

Ev. 21138, 21342, &c. 21092, 21131-7, 21141-50.

Ev. 21132, &c.

Ev. 21135.

From this state of things have unavoidably arisen the want of uniformity in the general management of business already noticed by us; the absence of that continuous attention so essential to the interests of schools and education; and the deficiency of a proper feeling of individual responsibility. The business has thus been left too much in the hands of subordinate officers, and a system of routine, wholly incompatible with proper supervision and the effective control of educational endowments and schools, has been tolerated.

Ev. 21148-50.

The circumstance that the *ex officio* Commissioners were either themselves dignitaries of the United Church, or, necessarily, members of it, was another serious defect in the constitution of the Board. This is the more remarkable, since the Legislature, in framing the 53 Geo. III., ch. 107, withdrew from its jurisdiction the most important classes of exclusive schools. The exception, however, that was made with reference to schools of private foundation designed for the education of members of the United Church only—of which some were placed under the Commissioners—probably was the reason why the Commissioners, appointed by the Government, though not restricted by statute to any one religious denomination, have, in point of fact, been nearly always chosen among members of the United Church. To the character thus given to the Board it must, we think, be ascribed that the regulations made respecting endowments, intended for the entire community, have been, in some instances, such as to have a tendency to exclude Roman Catholics and Dissenters from a participation in their benefits.

53 Geo. III. c. 107, sec. 15.

The defective constitution of the Board as regards numbers, qualifications, the selection of the non-official members, and the absence of any paid and responsible officer forming part of the body, seems to have led the Commissioners to misconceive their duties, and narrow their powers to the extent to which they have done; and also to have caused their imperfect performance of even the limited functions they did assume. The most important duty intrusted to the Commissioners was, in our opinion, that of directly superintending and promoting education in Ireland, in all the schools placed under them; and their primary error—that, too, which, indirectly, but necessarily, caused all the rest—consisted in postponing this function to those incidental to the management of the charity estates. This misapprehension appears to have characterized their proceedings for a long period, and naturally led them, first to overlook the large powers conferred for educational purposes; and next to contract the sphere of their labours in a manner quite at variance with the intention, and even with the express words, of the Acts which defined their office and authority.

PROPOSED BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF ENDOWED SCHOOLS.

Having thus pointed out the mistakes which we conceive to have been made in the original constitution of the Board, the deficiencies of the Commissioners' powers, and the errors prevailing in their management, we feel bound to state our views as to the course which ought in future to be pursued. The system of supervision and control over educational endowments requires, we think, to be reconstructed, placed upon a broader basis, and modified in such a manner as to admit of advantage being taken of the experience gained within the last forty years. We believe, however, that an improved system of regulating endowed

PROPOSED BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF ENDOWED SCHOOLS.

53 Geo. III. c. 107.
3 Geo. IV. c. 79.

schools, in conformity with the principles already stated, can be most effectually carried into operation by adhering to the general policy of the original Acts, the failure of which is, in a great degree, attributable to the imperfect machinery by which it was proposed to carry their provisions into effect.

With this view we submit the following recommendations, calculated, as we believe, to carry out the objects for which the present inquiry was instituted, and to place on a satisfactory basis the management of non-exclusive school endowments, and the application of their funds to educational purposes.

We recommend, in the first place, the repeal of the Statutes constituting the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, and the establishment of a new Board, composed of a sufficient number of members, all of whom should be nominated by the Government, and selected with a due regard to the representation of the various religious persuasions. One of the Commissioners ought to receive a salary, and devote his whole time to the business of the Board; on him, therefore, the chief responsibility should devolve. Regarding the educational function as being the primary and most important office of such an institution, we are of opinion that the paid Commissioner should be selected mainly with a view to the promotion of this end.

Ev. 21199, 21340.

In furtherance of this primary object, we are of opinion that it is essential to establish a system of efficient and periodical inspection, and that this can only be effected by the instrumentality of an inspector, well trained, and adequately paid. Such an officer, or, if necessary, several paid inspectors, should, therefore, be connected with the Board. The benefits derived from systematic inspection would be enhanced by periodical visitations, which, as regards some, at all events, of the chief schools, it should be the duty of the paid Commissioner to make. A secretary and other subordinate officers would be necessary; and provision should be made for the paid inspection of the school estates. The cost of this establishment, as well as the incidental expenses of the new Board, should be defrayed out of the Consolidated Fund, in accordance with the principle established by the 53rd Geo. III. c. 107.

As the proposed Board would be a mixed Board, constituted for the management of non-exclusive schools, we are of opinion that their jurisdiction should not extend to exclusive schools, under which term we mean to include those into which pupils of only one religious persuasion have a right of admission, or where the trustees, being of one religious persuasion, have power to compel all the pupils to receive religious instruction in their own tenets.

With reference to such exclusive schools, connected with the United Church, as are now under the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, we recommend that they be transferred to the Incorporated Society, so as to be under that society, to the same extent and in the same manner as they are now under the Commissioners of Education. With the exception of exclusive schools, as above defined, and also of any primary school, the trustees of which shall place it in connexion with the National Board, we recommend that all other endowed schools in Ireland be placed under the proposed Board of Endowed Schools; and that the new Commissioners have powers enabling them to inspect, regulate, and superintend the management of them, similar to those now intrusted to the Commissioners of Education in Ireland.

Ev. 21164, 21241.

We are of opinion that the property, as well as the management of the Royal and Diocesan Schools, and of all other non-exclusive schools now vested in the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, ought to be vested in the new Board, with power (where necessary or deemed advisable) to redistribute the revenues, to consolidate or divide the schools, and to remove them to different localities. We believe that the success of the proposed Board as an educational institution, must in a great degree depend on its having adequate authority for the management of the schools placed under its control, and with this view, we recommend that the Commissioners should, so far as is consistent with existing rights of private patronage, have the appointment of the head masters of all schools vested in them, and should besides, possess a large measure of control over the teachers, and a power of dismissing for inefficiency or other sufficient cause shown, although no actual misconduct might be proved to exist. We also recommend that they be empowered to regulate the salaries of the teachers and assistant teachers in such schools; to promote them; and in cases of long and faithful service to grant retiring pensions. The Commissioners should, we think, have the power of regulating the course of instruction in all schools within their jurisdiction.

Ev. 21179, &c.

Ev. 21228.

GENERAL RESULTS OF THE INQUIRY.

review of the whole. We shall thus have occasion to explain our views with respect to the principles of school management, and to exhibit the grounds of the recommendations which we make for the reformation of endowed schools in Ireland.

We propose to arrange our observations under the following heads :—

1. Instruction and Discipline.
2. Masters.
3. School Premises, Furniture, and Requisites.
4. Pupils.
5. Superintendence and Management.

1.—*Instruction and Discipline.*

The course of instruction adopted in the endowed Grammar Schools of Ireland may be described, in general terms, by saying that it comprehends the subjects usually taught to scholars preparing to enter the Universities.

In this course classical and mathematical studies preponderate; comparatively little attention being paid to English literature, modern languages, or the sciences of observation and experiment.

The masters appear to have assumed that it was essential to the grammar-school system that all the pupils should learn both Greek and Latin; and in tracing out their school curriculum they seem to have been guided principally by a regard to the entrance course in Trinity College, Dublin. Such at least would have been a fair representation of the state of teaching in almost all our endowed Grammar Schools, down to a very recent period.

Of late, however, several causes have conspired to turn the attention of schoolmasters to subjects which they had previously overlooked.

The Commissioners of Education in Ireland, using the powers committed to them by the Legislature, have founded exhibitions in Trinity College, Dublin, in connexion with some of the Royal Schools. With the view, no doubt, of making the competition for these prizes re-act beneficially upon the schools, the Commissioners have prescribed such a course for the candidates as would test their proficiency, not merely in the subjects appointed for the College entrance examination, but also in English composition, history, and other branches of what is called an English education. The institution of these exhibitions giving rise to a wholesome rivalry amongst the pupils in the different Royal Schools, has certainly produced a good effect, in promoting studies which were formerly almost neglected.

The Universities themselves have likewise given a powerful impulse to these studies, by establishing new classes of Honors at the Degree Examination designed to reward the successful pursuit of them.

Hitherto we have only noticed agencies affecting those scholars who looked forward to a university career. And if no other forces but these had been called into activity the Grammar School system would have still continued to be quite dependent upon that of the Universities, and arranged for the special benefit of future collegians.

A new order of things was introduced by the establishment of competitive examinations for admission into the public service, both civil and military. In the list of subjects in which the candidates are liable to be examined, the language, literature, and history of our own country hold a prominent place. Opportunities are also afforded of displaying proficiency in the languages, history, and geography of the continental countries; and the importance of chemistry, physical science, and natural history, is recognised by the introduction of these subjects into the prescribed course.

The most intelligent masters of Grammar Schools speedily perceived the bearing of this great social reform upon the question of school management, and endeavoured to make such arrangements as might secure to their pupils a fair chance of ultimately obtaining some of the prizes thus proposed for competition.

The actual value and honorable nature of these rewards must, necessarily, attract many candidates. In amount they exceed most of the rewards offered to students in our colleges, and they are brought within the reach of persons who would be disqualified if measured by the old scholastic standard.

Perhaps all the agencies which we have noticed ought to be referred to a common source, the growth and diffusion of a belief in the necessity of enlarging

the foundations of our school system. It appears to be very generally admitted, that this system requires reconstruction, for the double purpose of improving the course marked out for boys intended for the learned professions, and organizing a new department of study for the benefit of persons belonging to the middle classes, and designed for the pursuits of manufacture and commerce. Of the existence of such opinions many proofs have come before us in the course of the inquiries which it has been our duty to conduct. Testimony bearing on the subject, both written and oral, has been submitted to us by persons of great intelligence and experience in matters relating to education. Almost all of these witnesses protest against the expediency of confining the attention of masters and scholars to the acquirement of the dead languages, of ancient history and geography, and of elementary mathematics. They plead on behalf of modern languages and history, modern geography, both physical and political, the experimental and biological sciences, and, above all, the careful study of our own language, its structure, and its literature, together with the history of our own country and its dependencies. They argue, too, that instruction may be given in these branches without sacrificing any valuable element in our existing school systems. They discountenance any attempt to interfere with the classical studies which are indispensable to mental training; they only ask to have that training made more complete by its union with other studies, which are necessary for the development of faculties of a different kind. To these views we profess our general adherence, and we entertain no apprehensions lest the usefulness of our schools should be impaired by the eagerness of masters to teach too extended a course of literature, science, and art.

General Results of the Inquiry.

With reference to the existing state of instruction in Irish Endowed Grammar Schools, we are obliged to state our opinion, that it falls, on the whole, below the level at which we think it ought to be maintained. We have much pleasure in stating that there are some classes of endowed schools affording a very superior education, and managed in accordance with the general principles which we have just laid down. In some of the Royal Schools, under the superintendence of the Commissioners of Education, most efficient instruction in Greek and Latin is imparted to the pupils. Of this, their constant success in the pursuit of collegiate distinctions is a sufficient proof. But, besides this, we observe the importance of other branches of study, English literature, modern languages, and experimental science has been acknowledged, and properly qualified assistants are employed to teach these branches.

In the boarding schools under the care of the Incorporated Society, a well arranged course of reading, writing, grammar, English dictation, geography, use of the globes, geometry, algebra, mensuration, and book-keeping, is carefully taught; and considerable proficiency is attained in these branches by the foundation pupils, all of whom possess more than average ability, having gained admission into the boarding schools as the reward of their success in a competitive examination.

As a contrast to these classes of schools, we are called upon to notice the inferior condition of the Diocesan Schools. The low state of education in these and other institutions upon which we have commented with disapproval in former parts of this Report is owing to several causes which we shall presently have occasion to explain.

Our remarks have been hitherto intended to apply to the state of instruction in grammar schools, or other institutions designed to furnish teaching intermediate between that of the elementary school and the college. Of the primary schools possessing endowments we are not enabled to make a favourable report. Amongst them, indeed, we found the greatest possible difference, both as regards the nature of the instruction provided, and the efficiency of the means taken to impart it. We visited primary schools, in which all the usual elementary branches were taught, and the admirable answering of whole classes of children, whom we ourselves examined, furnished conclusive evidence of the zeal and competency of their teachers. But, in melancholy contrast to these instances of efficiency, we are constrained to declare, that we met with still more numerous cases in which the instruction given was nearly valueless—not so much because it was limited in extent, as because of its utter want of system and exactness. Great, indeed, would be the advantages diffused amongst the poorer classes by a school in which reading, writing, and the elementary rules of arithmetic were tolerably well taught. But we cannot report that the advantages even of this

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scanty instruction are generally brought home to the cottages of the poor in due accordance with the generous intentions of those persons who have given or bequeathed money for the endowment of schools.

In the number of well-managed primary schools we may include several which happen to have small endowments, but are really under the management of the National Board, and profit by the advantages to which that connexion gives rise. We must also mention the large schools kept by the Christian Brothers in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, and Tralee; to these we may add some of the English schools under the Board of Governors of Erasmus Smith's foundation.

In the Tables annexed to this Report will be found notices of the state of instruction in all the endowed schools which have been inspected by our Assistant Commissioners. After making full allowance for the difference of opinion which may exist as to the efficiency of any particular school, we feel that we may yet depend, with confidence, upon the general conclusion deduced from the analysis of these returns. They indicate a small proportion of schools where the instruction was very satisfactory; whilst, in the majority of cases, they represent the state of instruction as being not satisfactory, unsatisfactory, or very unsatisfactory. We might well regard such a result as an extremely discouraging one if we did not feel persuaded that we are able to point out the principal causes of the inefficiency complained of, and to suggest attainable means of counteracting them to a great extent.

The discipline observed in the Endowed Schools of Ireland does not furnish matter for any lengthened observations. We observed with pleasure the general disinclination of teachers to resort to corporal punishment as a means of enforcing attention to school tasks. Even in the case of breaches of school discipline, and offences involving no high degree of moral culpability, other punishments are, in general, found sufficiently efficacious. Personal chastisement seems, in general, to be inflicted only in cases of extreme misbehaviour; but we must notice with censure the prevailing neglect of masters to enter in the report book of the school a record of the infliction of each flogging, and of the circumstances which led to its infliction. The governors of the school are thus left without the means of checking any undue severity on the part of the master.

We found that the necessity of resorting to punishments of any kind was least felt in those schools in which the best instruction was given, and the greatest pains taken to promote the general well-being of the pupils. The personal influence exerted by a worthy and intelligent teacher is found most effectually to promote both diligence in study and submission to school discipline. In subordination, however, to this, which is the highest and the best influence, we think that the system of distributing prizes at half-yearly examinations may be advantageously employed, if regulated with judgment, and conducted in such a manner as to avoid the danger of unduly exciting the principle of emulation. Managers of schools must also be on their guard against the temptations to which masters are exposed by periodical examinations. They must take means to secure the continuous attention of the teacher even to those less advanced pupils who are incapable of making any public display of their attainments. Periodical examinations ought to test the progress of all the pupils in a school from the highest to the lowest. We observed that, in the English schools under the care of Erasmus Smith's Board, prizes are given only to those scholars who have earned them by the regularity of their attendance. It would be more judicious, we think, to make the reward depend upon proficiency in studies taken in connexion with regularity and general good conduct. This system is adopted by one of the masters of the Royal Schools. He has instituted distinct prizes for diligence and good conduct, and made the attainment of them an essential qualification for obtaining the class prizes, which reward distinction in particular branches of study. It is our opinion, that funds for the purpose of establishing prizes should exist in connexion with all Endowed Schools. In cases which came under our observation, the expense of providing them was allowed to press unfairly upon the masters.

II.—*Masters.*

Observations on the efficiency of schools immediately suggest an inquiry as to the qualifications of the masters who preside in them: for the master is the life

of the school. It prospers under the rule of a preceptor who, by a happy intuition, or by a judicious training, has acquired the art of teaching; who knows how to cultivate the affections, as well as to stimulate the intellectual activity of his pupils; who unites diligence to skill; and who performs his duties from a deep sense of his responsibility. Blest by the services of such a master, a school may flourish, though deprived of almost every other condition of success. His well-stored mind, and ready powers of illustration, make up for a deficient supply of books. His love of order communicates itself to the scholars, and compensates, in a great measure, for the want of those material appliances which we look for in a well organized school.

It would be unreasonable to expect that an office, the proper discharge of which demands the combination of many high qualities, should be filled in a satisfactory manner by persons who have undergone no training specially fitting them to undertake it. There is no employment to which this observation applies with more force than that of a schoolmaster. In order to teach any subject well, he must have, himself, thoroughly learned it, and he must also have acquired by imitation, by instruction, and by practice, the art of conveying to a class clear notions of what he is endeavouring to teach. We lament to say that the inefficient condition of many of the schools which have fallen under our observation is owing to the want of masters who have passed through a proper course of preliminary training. As yet, the supply of such masters falls very far short of the demand for their services, although the sums of public money placed at the disposal of the National Board have enabled the Commissioners largely to extend the benefits of their model and training schools. On the other hand, the endowed grammar schools, and other institutions furnishing superior education, do but little to supply the want complained of.

In the principal boarding school under the care of the Incorporated Society, young men receive an education qualifying them to hold the office of schoolmaster. They have also an opportunity of acquiring expertness in teaching, by giving instruction to pupils in the junior classes. But even this school is not professedly a training school. With this exception, we are not aware that there is any endowment which affords to pupils adequate means of fitting themselves for the office of schoolmaster.

It may be said that something is effected towards this end in all schools where the monitorial system is carried into effect. We must remark, however, that the experience of those who have most closely scrutinized the working of this system has led them to recommend the restriction of it within narrow limits. The monitor's progress in his own studies is often unduly interfered with by the devotion of a large portion of his school-time to the class of junior pupils whom he is employed to instruct; and his relation of superiority to them is apt to possess him with an exaggerated notion of his own intelligence. Besides all this, it is certain that instruction, even in elementary subjects, can be best conveyed by those who have long and completely mastered them. It must be remembered, too, that success in teaching depends, in a great measure, upon the good temper and tact with which it is conveyed. Taking these circumstances into account, we do not recommend an extension of the monitorial system as a desirable mode of compensating for the want of well-trained adult teachers.

The Church Education Society devotes a portion of its funds to the training of masters and mistresses; and, we believe, that in proportion to its resources, its training schools produce very satisfactory results; but the number of pupils trained is small, not even sufficient to supply the demands of the schools under the special care of the Society.

However difficult it may be to procure the services of properly qualified schoolmasters, the want of well-trained mistresses has been represented to us as being even more pressing. The opportunities presented in Ireland to young females of educating themselves as schoolmistresses are quite insufficient; and the bad consequences are painfully apparent in the low state of instruction in many schools for girls.

In connexion with the need of training for masters, our attention has been directed to the fact, that the science of education, and the art of teaching, do not enter in a sufficiently definite form into the course of instruction provided for candidate schoolmasters. We believe that, in this respect, the system of our model and training schools falls far short of that carried into effect in the forty normal schools of Prussia. There Pædagogy, as it is called, is a substantive

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portion of the extended course through which the pupil-teachers are made to pass, and occupies a large share of their attention.

It has also been observed to us, that public lectures on this subject would be useful, not only to persons engaged in tuition, but even to parents and others, who would thus have an opportunity of learning how much it is their duty and interest to co-operate with teachers in the instruction of the young.

The schoolmaster, having secured a good preliminary training, ought to be enabled to devote himself exclusively to the duties of his office. These duties are well known to be laborious; but they are even more engrossing, when adequately discharged, than most persons suppose them to be. The schoolmaster, in order to be able to give really efficient instruction, must refresh his knowledge by going back sometimes to the sources from which he drew his original stock of information, and constantly gathering fresh materials for the purpose of giving life and substance to his oral lessons. For the delivery of these he ought carefully to prepare himself. When once he ceases to be a learner, he ceases to be a thoroughly competent teacher. The scholars must not slake their thirst for knowledge at a cistern of stagnant water; they ought to drink from a stream which is itself kept fresh and full by unfailing springs.

Holding such views with respect to the many and the high endowments, both moral and intellectual, which the teacher ought to possess, we are forced to recognize the claims of those who are thus qualified to a liberal remuneration. It is not to be expected that persons will devote themselves to a calling for which they must fit themselves by a long course of preliminary training, and on the discharge of which they must be prepared to spend unceasing labour, unless they are impelled by motives of a powerful kind. When these motives are, a love of teaching for its own sake, a benevolent desire to diffuse the advantages of knowledge to the poor and illiterate, and, above all, a pious anxiety to promote the religious and moral well-being of others—when the teacher appears in the character of a missionary in the cause of civilization and religion, we may expect to find him willing to perform his task as a labour of love; but even he ought to be maintained in a position of comfort and independence. In general, however, the teacher engages in his office as a means of earning an honest livelihood, and any regulations affecting a person who undertakes employment of this nature, must be framed on the supposition that he is to receive emoluments sufficient to raise him above the cares attendant upon straitened circumstances, and to place him in a social position commanding the respect of his pupils and their parents. If many of our endowed schools are inefficient, it is chiefly because the endowments are quite inadequate to secure the services of competent instructors.

The average amount of the salaries of the masters in our endowed grammar schools is £112. The average amount of the salaries of the masters and the mistresses in the endowed primary schools of Ireland is about £23 a-year.

This low scale of remuneration too well accounts for the inefficiency of the schools. Persons of intelligence are discouraged from adopting a calling which is so ill-requited; or, finding themselves engaged in it, are tempted to undertake employments inconsistent with the due discharge of their duties as teachers. The underpaid masters of primary schools, in order to maintain themselves, are too often obliged to cultivate land, or to engage in other avocations which distract them from the performance of their school duties, even if they are not otherwise objectionable. In some schools of a higher kind, where the salary is not sufficient by itself to enable the master to maintain his position, he is induced to undertake ministerial duties, or to augment the emoluments of the mastership by raising the school fees, and excluding from the school the very persons for whose benefit it was endowed. Besides an adequate salary, there are other motives which ought to be held out, for the purpose of stimulating persons to adopt the scholastic profession, and to persevere in the zealous and diligent discharge of it. They ought to see before them a reasonable prospect of promotion as the reward of faithful and efficient service; and lastly, they ought to have an assurance of some retiring allowance, when age or infirmity shall have disqualified them for the performance of active duties. We regret that it is our duty to report that arrangements of this kind have been made in hardly any instances for the benefit of masters of endowed schools in Ireland. The patronage of these schools being vested in many different hands, it has not been possible to organize an extensive system of promotion, and

even where opportunities existed, enabling the holders of patronage to promote efficient masters from inferior to superior situations, this power has not been as fully exercised as was consistent with the interests of the schools.

We shall have occasion to observe that schools in general languish where the duty of inspection is either neglected or carelessly performed. The master's activity is much stimulated by a well-conducted inspection; his diligence, if he has been painstaking, is rewarded by the appreciation of its fruits, and the consequent approbation of those to whom he has to give an account. On the other hand, if left altogether without this stimulus, he is tempted to become remiss. We received evidence from several schoolmasters, complaining that their schools had never been visited or inspected by the persons who had authority to do so. All the masters who mentioned this defect, expressed their regret at being thus left without notice and encouragement. It is only the careless and the inefficient who would wish to pass unobserved. In the course of our inquiries we brought to light some cases of gross neglect, which could never have arisen, if the masters of the schools had been taught, from time to time, to prepare for the visits of competent inspectors. These exposures led to the dismissal of several incapable masters, who had been allowed to retain their offices, although the inefficient condition of their schools ought, long before, to have subjected them to censure and punishment. Even where abuses had become notorious, and the attendance at schools had been almost discontinued, we still found a prevailing disinclination to dismiss incompetent teachers; the interests of many children, just entering into life, being sacrificed to a mistaken lenity, shown to an individual. In some cases it is to be observed that the governors of the endowment are empowered to dismiss masters only on proof of actual misconduct. It appears to us that clearly proved inefficiency ought to be made an equally valid ground for deprivation. We are not of opinion that our endowed schools can be reformed by the pressure of an external authority brought to bear upon them; there must be internal principles of life. Measures must be taken to secure, as far as possible, the selection of properly-qualified masters; and those masters, when appointed, must be animated in the discharge of their duty by every fitting motive. We must facilitate the training, we must elevate the condition, we must improve the prospects, we must raise the self-respect of the masters; and thus we shall take the surest steps to promote the efficiency of our schools.

School Premises, Furniture, and Requisites.

We have to report that the schoolhouses established or maintained by endowments are, in general, in a bad state of repair, or imperfectly supplied with the essential furniture and other appliances. This state of things is mainly owing to the inadequate amount of the endowments, which are, in many cases, so scanty, as to threaten the discontinuance of the schools as soon as the present tenements shall have fallen into decay. A few of the Grammar Schools are well circumstanced as regards their state of repair. First amongst these must be noticed the Royal Free Schools under the care of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland. For their maintenance large estates are available, and, with few exceptions, these resources have been applied with liberality and judgment. To the generous aid and superintending care of the Lord Primate of Ireland must be ascribed, in a great measure, the excellent condition as regards both accommodation and repair of the Grammar Schools of Armagh, Dungannon, and St. Columba. Large sums of money advanced by his Grace as gifts, or loans free of interest, have enabled the masters to make the dormitories and other parts of the buildings fit models for imitation in all institutions of this kind.

The late master of Raphoe School, partly by help of a loan obtained from the Commissioners of Education, but chiefly at his own expense, has executed extensive repairs and provided suitable dormitory accommodation in a schoolhouse, the condition of which was ruinous at the time of his appointment.

With the exception of the Grammar Schools already mentioned, and a few others under the care of the Commissioners of Education, we have to complain that the institutions of this class are dilapidated and ill-supplied. This description applies with most force to the class of Diocesan, or District Free Schools. For the maintenance of their schoolhouses no funds are available, except such as can be raised by the voluntary presentments of Grand Juries. Many causes have concurred to render these bodies disinclined to lay the burden of additional

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taxation upon their respective counties for the sake of maintaining the Diocesan Schools. In some cases, the persons charged with the patronage of the schools have failed even to fill up the vacant masterships. In others, owing to injudicious appointments and the want of inspection, the schools were allowed to fall into a state of complete inefficiency. Everywhere uncertainty was permitted to exist as to the right of free admission; and a mistaken belief appears to have prevailed that the Diocesan Schools were not intended to bestow equal benefits on persons of different religious persuasions. Moreover, difficulties have arisen from the mode which the Legislature has prescribed for applotting the sums presented for the purposes of building or repair. The causes which we have mentioned appear sufficiently to account for the unwillingness of Grand Juries to present. But whether the explanations we have offered be adequate or not, the fact remains undeniable, that the presentments are not made, and that, consequently, either no schoolhouses have been erected, or those which have been built have become ruinous, or are rapidly falling into decay. As we have already intimated, the inadequacy of the endowments is the principal cause of the bad state of repair of the remaining classes of schoolhouses. A zealous and intelligent master may keep up a good school, although the accommodation afforded him is insufficient; but his efforts to promote good order and neatness are almost paralyzed by the ruinous condition of the school premises. We may add, that his own self-respect, and that of his scholars, are compromised by the mere fact of their occupying squalid and dilapidated school buildings. The defects to which we have referred are even seriously prejudicial to health, for the preservation of which it is especially requisite that light, warmth, cleanliness, and ventilation should be secured in rooms where large numbers of young persons are congregated. It has been well said that the training to practical habits of neatness and order, conveyed to children in a well-arranged schoolroom, is one of the most valuable lessons which they learn in it. We regret to say that these advantages are beyond the reach of, or are but imperfectly attainable by, the scholars of our poorly endowed schools.

We noticed that due provision was not always made to secure proper ventilation in schoolrooms and dormitories. In one of the schoolrooms visited by us the air was so impure as to produce serious if not dangerous effects upon the health of two of the members of the Commission.

In more instances than one we found that it was customary to wash the boarded floor of the schoolroom only once in six months.

There is one class of Grammar Schools, the dilapidated state of which is not traceable to the inadequacy of the endowment. We here refer to those under the care of Erasmus Smith's Board. The practice adopted by the Governors has been to put each schoolhouse into good order, on the appointment of a new master. After that first outlay he is required to keep the house in repair. The effect of this arrangement has been to throw an undue pressure upon the masters, whose salaries were already insufficient. We were told that the Governors made occasional grants towards the repair of the schoolhouses, in aid of the sums disbursed by the masters; but it was apparent that the Governors are much indisposed to contributing in this way towards the maintenance of the school premises, and have not recognised their obligation to fulfil this primary and chartered trust of the foundation. The houses in general, and especially the schoolrooms, presented an unfavourable contrast to those of the Royal Schools. The Governors have excused their parsimony in this respect, by pleading the urgency of other claims upon their funds. It is our opinion that the Grammar Schools under their care would have been better filled with pupils, and more efficient in every respect, if the Governors had profited by the example presented by the Royal Schools.

The primary schools, having small endowments, are generally in a bad state of repair. It is to be regretted that, in many cases, no funds appear available for their continued maintenance, whilst their present inefficient state precludes the hope of exciting in their favour such local support as would save them from ruin. These remarks apply with special force to a group of thirty-one schools, endowed by Colonel Robertson, in the county of Donegal.

Many of Erasmus Smith's English Schools are provided with respectable and well-planned schoolhouses; the best of them being much superior in their arrangements to the Grammar Schools under the same Board.

Several instances have been brought under our notice, where schools have been

discontinued, or have fallen into a state of inefficiency, in consequence of their sites having been at first injudiciously chosen, or having afterwards become unsuitable, through a change in the condition of the neighbourhood. Evils of this nature, if they cannot be entirely obviated, may be much abated by combining the resources of local knowledge, with an acquaintance with those general principles which have been established by the experience of persons engaged in school management. To a want of such knowledge we think it is owing that many primary schools, particularly those situate in towns, have been left unprovided with playgrounds. In schools thus circumstanced it is usual to continue the studies of the scholars, without interruption, during the five hours which make up the daily school-time. This practice is injurious to the health, and by no means conducive to the progress of the scholars. Short intervals allowed for recreation, into which the children enter with zest, are found to operate beneficially in more ways than one. They refresh the bodily and mental energies of both teacher and pupil, and they help to associate in the minds of the latter the recollections of school with ideas of cheerfulness and enjoyment, rather than constraint and weariness. It was only in a few of our best managed schools that we found proper arrangements made for the recreation and physical development of the pupils.

Next to a commodious schoolhouse, kept clean and in a state of good repair, it is essential that a school should be provided with desks and forms, so arranged as to facilitate the organization of the classes. With the exception of some of the Royal Schools, we found but few of the endowed Grammar Schools supplied with proper school furniture. The condition of the Grammar Schools, under Erasmus Smith's Board, was, in this respect, very discreditable. Amongst the primary schools, the same deficiency was found to prevail, except in the case of the most flourishing schools under the care of the National Board, the Institute of the Christian Brothers, and the Board of Erasmus Smith.

The deficiency here complained of is generally traceable to the inadequacy of the endowments, but in some instances to a want of perception, on the part of the managers of the schools, of the importance of attending to matters of this nature. In the course of our inspection of schools, we, ourselves, witnessed, and we received evidence from many quarters declaring the general deficiency of common school requisites. In many cases we found the scholars provided with unsuitable books. In many more the supply of books was altogether disproportionate to the number of the pupils. Outline and other maps, upon a large scale, are not as frequently found in the schoolrooms as they ought to be. Even writing materials are, in many cases, too scantily supplied. After such a representation of the deficiency of the commonest school requisites, it will excite little surprise if we add, that globes, diagrams, models, and collections of objects are but rarely seen. But few school lending-libraries exist. Museums of natural history are hardly to be found. We noticed but one laboratory in which chemical instruction could be carried on. It is scarcely possible to conceive the difference between the destitute state of some schoolrooms, and the well-furnished condition of the few, whose well-covered walls bear witness to the efficiency of the instruction carried on within them. We cannot help observing, that while the best managed primary schools are adequately supplied with the most essential school requisites, the schoolrooms of our ordinary Grammar Schools are nearly destitute of them. It would almost seem that the masters of the latter regard it as inconsistent with the dignity of their system of teaching to keep the eyes of their pupils familiar with the representations of objects treated of in their various lessons. We are even forced to admit, as a result of the comparison just instituted, that instruction in some important branches of education receives a greater amount of attention in the primary than in the superior schools.

We believe that almost all schoolmasters would gladly improve their methods of tuition if they were only furnished with the necessary information and appliances. Many hints might be gathered from the inspection of well-managed schools; but perhaps no opportunity would furnish the teacher with so many suggestions for the better practice of his vocation, as a visit to a museum, where he might be allowed to inspect a complete collection of educational apparatus, including books, maps, globes, diagrams, models, specimens of natural and artificial objects, requisites for art instruction, mathematical and philosophical instruments; in short, all the furniture and appliances of the school or lecture room.

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No schoolroom is completely furnished if it be not provided with a time-piece. Our Assistant Commissioners noticed the prevailing want of this requisite, so essential to secure punctuality and regularity in the school business. It is in vain to furnish time-tables to masters and mistresses who are left unprovided with time-pieces. The cost of these articles is now so inconsiderable that they ought to be found even in the poorest school.

Pupils.

In our inquiries into the condition of endowed schools, we have directed our attention to the circumstances of the individuals for whose benefit the endowments were established. It is our belief that these institutions originated in the desire to extend the blessings of education to persons of different ranks. But the first objects of the charities were undoubtedly those, who, were it not for the endowment, would have been left without the means of obtaining an education suited to their state of life. Parents possessing ample means have it in their power to procure for their children all the advantages that a good school affords, even though no such school may exist in the neighbourhood of the place where they reside. They can either engage in their own homes the services of the best private teachers, or they can send their children to receive instruction in well-managed boarding schools at a distance. Persons of the middle or poorer classes do not possess this great advantage. They must avail themselves of the educational resources existing in their immediate neighbourhood; and if these be deficient, they and their children must patiently bear the disastrous consequences.

The means of primary education supplied by the Parochial Schools, and endowments of various kinds, being wholly disproportionate to the wants of the poorer classes, the State has undertaken to provide for them by the establishment of a system of National schools, in which a very large number of children receive elementary instruction of a superior kind. So far as regards primary instruction, we have no occasion to complain that the children of the poor are left destitute ; and we have to report that the endowed primary schools, though not as well managed as might be wished, are yet conferring benefits upon the class of persons whom they were designed to serve.

It is not so with the endowed Grammar Schools. According to our view of the primary object of these schools, they were founded, mainly, for the benefit of persons in the middle rank of society, and were designed to provide an education suited to the wants of persons of that class. To the son of the farmer, artisan, or shopkeeper, the Free Grammar School gave instruction qualifying him intelligently to carry on the business of his father's calling. To the children of the merchant and manufacturer, it furnished the higher intellectual culture necessary for their employments; whilst, to the sons of the landed gentry and persons following the learned professions, it supplied such classical and mathematical training as was necessary to fit them for the Universities. Researches into the history of Grammar Schools have established the fact, that persons differing thus from one another in their condition of life, were in the habit of frequenting the same Grammar Schools. Thus, the register of the Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools contains lists of scholars, from which it appears that some, on leaving school, passed into the University or the army, whilst the majority of the pupils on quitting school were apprenticed to different trades ; and the Governors, in accordance with the terms of their charter, expended considerable sums in defraying the apprentice fees. At present, we believe that the state of things in our endowed Grammar Schools is very different. The practice of devoting a portion of the charity funds to the payment of apprentice fees has been generally discontinued, and a large proportion of the pupils educated in these institutions are received as boarders, paying such stipends and receiving such instruction as indicate that their parents are in comparatively easy circumstances, and that they are themselves preparing for the Universities and the learned professions, rather than for the pursuits of commerce and trade.

There is reason to conjecture that the masters of Free Grammar Schools were originally permitted to receive boarders, partly, no doubt, in order to spread the benefits of instruction over a wider surface, but partly that the emoluments thus arising might, along with a moderate fixed salary, be sufficient to induce men of superior attainments to accept the office of master. In process of time, the boarding school became the first object. If no external authority interfered

with the exercise of the master's discretion, he was left free to manage the school in such a manner as to attract scholars of the higher grade. One mode of accomplishing this would be to adapt the course of school instruction to the special wants of persons of that class, to the comparative neglect of those branches in which instruction is particularly required by persons in the lower walks of life. And it may be observed that such a limitation of the school course would fall in naturally with the inclination of the most learned and accomplished masters. The restriction of the Grammar School course to studies required for pupils intending to enter the Universities, would have the effect of practically excluding the majority of the middle class pupils who look forward to a commercial career. In recent times the master would have a direct interest in limiting the admission of day and free scholars wherever he can furnish accommodation for the reception of a large number of boarders. Parents in the ranks of the gentry are now less willing than they were in former times to place their sons at schools attended by boys belonging to the middle and lower classes. We fear that out of this feeling has grown a corresponding inclination on the part of schoolmasters to discourage the attendance of those whom their more wealthy patrons would wish to see excluded. In short, it becomes the interest of the master to make his school select. He may do this in different ways. He may raise the charges payable for day scholars to such an amount as practically to exclude the sons of all except the wealthier residents in the neighbourhood; or, as we have already intimated, he may render the school studies unsuited to the wants of pupils preparing to follow the pursuits of trade and manufacture. He may also throw difficulties in the way of the admission of free scholars, or actually refuse to receive them.

Our inquiries into the condition of Free Grammar Schools in this country, have convinced us that the influences and the practices of which we have here indicated the nature, are not merely imaginary. On reviewing the Reports of our Assistant Commissioners, we find that of the pupils educated in forty-six of our endowed Grammar Schools, 506 are boarders paying from about £20 to about £60 a-year. The number of day scholars attending the same schools is 1,091, whilst the number of free pupils admitted amounts to only 161. The total annual value of these endowments is about £12,360. From these figures it might be inferred that the annual cost of providing free education in Grammar Schools for the benefit of the public is at the rate of £76 for each pupil. In such a calculation, the indirect advantages gained by the public in the establishment of schools where otherwise none would have existed, and in the improvement and cheapening of the education provided for the paying pupils, must not altogether be lost sight of; still the result to which we have just drawn attention shows too plainly that these endowments are not producing the effects they were intended to accomplish. A more signal instance of a disproportion between the magnitude of an endowment and the result produced by it in promoting free education, is presented in the case of the Royal Free Grammar Schools. The annual value of the endowments connected with these institutions is £6,830 2*s.* 5*d.*; the number of boarders educated in them and paying on an average £43 a-year, is 177, whilst the day scholars number only 134, and the whole number of free pupils received into them is but forty-seven. Thus the large endowments attached to these schools are principally expended in improving and cheapening the education of the boarders, whilst for only forty-seven scholars are the Royal Schools, as their name declares them to be, free.

Nothing can be farther from our intentions than to recommend such a revolutionary change in the management of these schools as would, practically, banish from them the pupils of a higher class, and degrade the course of instruction which they now very efficiently provide. It is our opinion, that the admission into these schools of the sons of persons of the upper ranks is productive of many social benefits; but we cannot admit that a consideration for their interests ought to be the guiding principle in regulating the management of the schools. The founders may have had some regard to the advantages incidentally placed within the reach of such pupils; but the primary object contemplated by them was, as we believe, the extension of education amongst the middle classes. It would, we think, be quite inconsistent with this view of the object of such foundations to lower the standard of classical instruction now adopted by the masters. It is our desire to see this standard kept up and even raised. By this all the scholars will benefit; the intellectual atmosphere in

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which they all move will be of a purer kind; and if there be amongst the scholars a boy of humble origin, but great natural capacity, he will be enabled, by the aid of the endowment, to make his way upwards to the heights of professional eminence.

It is much to be regretted that the rights of free admission have not been sufficiently defined. It is not enough that a school is called a free school, for we find that the masters of such schools deny the obligation to receive free pupils, and claim the right to refuse or grant admission according to their own discretion. In consequence of the privilege not having been adequately defined, it has been practically nullified. Inquiries of an antiquarian or philological nature have been entered upon for the purpose of ascertaining the signification of the term Free School, it being assumed that the word "free" must have a meaning different from "gratuitous." To us it appears that Free Schools were designed to provide gratuitous instruction, at all events, for a certain number, or a certain class, of pupils, irrespective of the master's choice; and we observe, with regret, that wherever the number and class have not been distinctly specified by a competent authority, and wherever the rights thus established have not been duly published, the middle and lower classes have derived very little benefit from the foundation of free schools.

In our review of the proceedings of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, we have complained that the rights of free admission into the Royal and Diocesan Schools have not been properly defined and announced. The same complaint applies in the case of the Free Grammar Schools, under the management of the Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools. In the latter class of Grammar Schools we found that, at the time when our inquiries commenced, there were but thirty free scholars, though the founder expressly declared his intention that twenty poor children should receive gratuitous instruction in each of the Grammar Schools on his foundation, exclusive of the sons of tenants holding portions of the school estates. The Governors have recently taken some steps to make known the existence of these rights of free admission.

It is very gratifying to us to be able to report most favourably on the course which the Governors of the Incorporated Society have adopted in filling the free places in the boarding schools under their superintendence. It was formerly the custom to make the distribution of these places a matter of patronage, exercised by the committee; but in 1839 the Reverend Elias Thackeray suggested the introduction of the existing system under which admission to the free places in the boarding schools of the Incorporated Society is made the reward of success at examinations in which a large number of boys or girls compete. The competition is not absolutely unrestricted. Those only are allowed to present themselves for examination who have been educated in primary schools approved of by the society and lying in certain districts. The following is the mode of conducting the examination, as described by the Secretary. Notice is sent to all the schools privileged to forward candidates for admission; these candidates must be of a certain age, and they must be provided with testimonials certifying their health, their moral character, and their attendance at the primary school from which they come. Being assembled in the schoolroom, they draw at random, from a box, cards bearing numbers by which they are designated, until the result of the examination has been declared. Neither their names nor the places from whence they come, nor any circumstance relating to them is known to the persons who conduct the examination. When the candidates have drawn their numbers, they are placed in corresponding order, and the examiner is furnished with a sheet of paper having upon it the numbers of the candidates and a list of the subjects of examination. The neighbouring clergy and gentry are all invited to be present; in fact, the examination is made as public as possible. The examiner then proceeds with his examination in the prescribed subjects, carefully taking note of all the answers according as they are correct or incorrect. Every person in the room has an opportunity of doing the same if he desires to check the accuracy of the examiner's marks. As soon as the examiner has reported that candidates denoted by particular numbers are the best answerers, each spectator may convince himself that such a conclusion has been justly arrived at. Inquiry is then made for the boys' certificates, which declare what their names are, from whence they come, and whether they have complied with the prescribed regulations. These points having been ascertained, the boys are admitted on the foundation of the school for

four years free of all cost to parents or friends, save the expense of travelling to school. At the termination of these four years, the foundation pupils are again examined, and those who are found most proficient are promoted to the Santry Institution, where they undergo a higher course of instruction for three years more; they are then qualified for whatever situations may be filled by young persons of good character, who have passed through an extensive course of English education. So great is the demand for the services of persons who have had the advantage of this training, that two or three times as many pupils as now obtain appointments might be provided for, if the institution could only furnish accommodation for so many. As it is, applications are so frequent, and the situations offered are so desirable, that the pupils are frequently tempted to leave the institution prematurely, forfeiting the advantage to which they are entitled of continuing there for one or two years longer.

We have described this excellent system at length, in the belief that it deserves to be widely extended. It is certainly true that, in the case of the Incorporated Society, some of the most valuable results arrived at are due to the great zeal and ability of the gentlemen who conduct the competitive examinations. These trials are carried on with judgment and fairness, and exercise a beneficial influence upon the state of primary education in the districts from which the candidates are allowed to come up for examination.

There is only one circumstance connected with this matter which we see reason to notice with disapproval. According to the rules of the society, those pupils only are permitted to present themselves as candidates who have been educated in primary schools, where the Holy Scriptures are daily read by all the scholars. This restriction operates to the exclusion of all Protestant children educated in poorhouse schools and other institutions conducted in accordance with the principles of the National Board, no matter how well instructed they may be in every portion of the prescribed course, or how well entitled, on the score of poverty and every other ground, to share in the benefits of the charity. Nor is it only individual pupils who suffer in consequence of the operation of this rule. The beneficial influence of these arrangements in stimulating primary education is confined to a much smaller number of schools than might be affected by them.

The experience which has been gained in the working of the plan adopted by the Incorporated Society appears to us to be available for the establishment of general principles, regulating the admission of free scholars into endowed schools. It has been represented to us by the masters of Free Grammar Schools that, under the present system of granting free admissions as a matter of favour or patronage, they deem it expedient to conceal the fact that any particular scholar receives a gratuitous education. It is supposed that their schoolfellows are inclined to look with contempt upon the free scholars. No such feeling would exist, if the privilege of free admission were gained as the reward of merit. Instead of carrying with it a stigma of reproach, the name of free scholar would then be a title of honour. A remarkable instance confirming this view is suggested by the case of sizarships in Trinity College, Dublin. As these situations are the objects of a severe competition, the students who are fortunate enough to obtain them are placed far above the reach of any reproach on the score of narrow circumstances, or humble origin.

We find that, in the Royal School of Enniskillen, free scholarships of the value of £20 per annum have been established for the benefit of poor and deserving scholars, who, by means of this assistance, are enabled to partake of all the benefits which the school affords, and thus to prepare themselves for a university career. No similar foundations exist in any of the other Royal Schools. Wherever funds were available for the purpose, we think that it would be expedient to found scholarships of this kind, open to competition in a well-arranged course of elementary instruction.

In 1828 the Commissioners of Education established exhibitions in Trinity College, Dublin, in connexion with one of the Royal Schools. In 1834 a certain number of these prizes were attached to several of these schools to be competed for by the pupils at the time of their entering the university. Objections have been repeatedly urged by the most competent authorities against the system of university exhibitions. It has been alleged that students having once gained them, are tempted to pause in the career of diligence which they have commenced, instead of making fresh exertions to secure the higher rewards of col-

General Results of the Inquiry.

legiate and professional distinction. No such objections can be fairly brought against the system of granting exhibitions established in connexion with the Royal Schools. They are tenable only so long as the exhibitioners give proofs of diligence by gaining a certain number of collegiate honors. We have received evidence abundantly showing that this institution of exhibitions has produced good effects. It has in each school promoted competition amongst the pupils, and raised the general standard of acquirement. It has, at the same time, given rise to a wholesome rivalry between the schools themselves. But the most decisive proof of its beneficial operation is to be found in the fact, that a number of young men who have been aided by these foundations have had a remarkable success in the University of Dublin, and have already attained to high positions in professional life.

Representations were addressed to us by several masters, complaining that the schools under their care are carried on under circumstances of great disadvantage, in consequence of their having no University exhibitions established in connexion with them. They alleged that the Endowed Grammar Schools, to which exhibitions are connected, attract to them, not only the greater number of scholars, but, also, those pupils who possess the greatest amount of natural talent.

The inquiries which we have made with respect to the attendance of pupils instructed in endowed primary schools have disclosed some unsatisfactory results. We must first mention that we see reasons to doubt the accuracy of the returns of attendance, as furnished in the report books of some of the schools. The numbers actually found in attendance by ourselves and our Assistant Commissioners appear to fall so frequently below the reported averages, that we are inclined to suspect the existence of a disposition, on the part of masters, to represent the attendance as being more numerous than it really is. We have also to observe, that, in schools where it is customary to announce, beforehand, the times of inspection, it is usual to find a largely-increased attendance for the week in which the visit of the Inspector falls. If this circumstance be not noticed in the Inspector's report a false impression may be conveyed to the minds of the managers of the schools, who might naturally suppose that the numbers returned by the Inspector represent the real averages.

It is well known that in agricultural districts the attendance of the elder children undergoes very considerable fluctuations. The labour of all who are capable of rendering any efficient help in the various harvest operations, and in the preparation of turf, is more valuable, in the present state of the labour market, than it was a few years ago. The irregularity of attendance thus produced materially affects the progress of the children in their various studies throughout the period during which they frequent the schools. This period, again, is much shorter than it ought to be, in order to enable the pupils to obtain such solid instruction, even in common things, as would make their school education a fit preparation for the employments and duties of life. It is true that the evil to which we here draw attention is not as much felt in this country as in England, because the labour of young persons is not so generally in demand for the various purposes of manufacture. The evil, however, exists, and, we believe, it will be difficult to obviate it by any direct interference. Prizes, held out as the rewards of an advanced proficiency, may produce some effect in prolonging the attendance of pupils in the higher classes; but more powerful influences must be brought to bear. Parents will learn, by-and-by, that it is their interest in a pecuniary sense to leave their children as long as possible at school; and there can be no doubt but that they will be more ready to bear with the consequent inconveniences, when admission into the lower offices in the various departments of the public service is fully thrown open to competition. That such a measure would produce very considerable effects in promoting primary education, is rendered evident by the results which we have already seen to flow from the application of the competitive principle in the higher branches of the military and civil service. In the end, as public opinion becomes more enlightened, the intrinsic value of a good education will be generally recognized; and parents will consent to make present sacrifices in order to procure for their children those blessings of intellectual improvement and moral elevation which a good education will insure, irrespective of any advantages of a merely temporal nature. Acted upon by no higher influence than self-interest, employers may see the expediency of engaging the services of workpeople whose intelligence has

been developed, and in whom habits of discipline and exactness have been formed by school routine. But we dare not trust to the sufficiency of this motive. We believe that those employers alone will effectually promote the intellectual and moral advancement of persons dependent upon them who recognise the moral obligation of doing this, as growing out of and inseparably connected with the relation in which they stand to the employed.

There is another influence affecting the attendance at school of children in the senior classes which must not be lost sight of. We refer to the interest which well-taught pupils feel in the studies they are carrying on. We have observed that in schools where the teachers take the greatest interest in the progress of the scholars, and where the standard of instruction is highest, the attendance in the senior classes is unusually large. We have before us one return,—that of the Christian Brothers in Richmond-street, Dublin,—from which it appears that, in a school deserving this commendation, out of 644 pupils in attendance 188 were between the ages of twelve and eighteen.

Persons interested in education have reason to lament that documents recording its practical results have been so seldom preserved. In very few instances have we found that the masters of schools keep an account of the history of their pupils, and register their success or failure in afterlife. This omission appears to us to indicate a want of thoughtfulness in the managers of schools. Statistics of this kind would be peculiarly valuable as throwing light upon the beneficial or injurious tendencies of particular methods of education. We are glad to be able to notice one very honourable exception to the general charge which it has been our duty to make. The Governors of the Gwyn Institution in Derry devote a considerable portion of their time and attention to the circumstances of the young persons formerly educated in their school. From the masters to whom the boys are apprenticed the Governors receive periodical reports as to the behaviour of the apprentices, and the progress made by them in learning their respective trades ; and rewards are given, from time to time, to the most diligent and the best conducted.

Superintendence and Management.

In the course of the inquiries which it has been our duty to institute we have frequently had occasion to notice the want of due superintendence and control over the affairs of school endowments. We have found that schools have degenerated into an inefficient state, or become wholly inoperative, in consequence of the neglect of the individual Trustees, or Boards of Governors, to whom the care of them was entrusted. The case of charities committed to the administration of private Trustees is most precarious. Persons interested in education engage in schemes intended to promote it. These are carried on with zeal and success during their lifetime, and, perhaps, by the immediate successors whom they appoint for the purpose of continuing the work they have commenced. In making provision for the appointment of future Trustees, thay are able to secure the possession of the requisite qualifications in the persons upon whom the duties of superintendence are next to devolve ; but it is impossible for them to insure a continued succession of duly-qualified Trustees. Thus, the management of the charity passes, before long, into the hands of persons who take no interest in its operation, or are actually incapable of administering it aright. The very nature of the trusts to be executed by degrees becomes less generally, and less exactly known ; and, in many instances, the loss of documents illustrating the objects and the history of the foundation, sometimes even the disappearance of its essential muniments, the charter, will, or deed, by which the endowment was first instituted, completes the series of causes which render it a prey to abuse or neglect.

It might be supposed that schools committed to the care of public Boards, including members who hold prominent places in society, would be secured against the dangers which we have described. We cannot say that our inquiry into the working hitherto of such bodies has assured us of their efficiency. They appear to us to have generally neglected that precaution, without which all attempts to manage schools must be unsuccessful. They have failed to organize and keep up a proper system of visitation and inspection. This omission, and the inadequacy of endowments, are the fundamental causes of nearly all the evils which it has been our painful duty to represent. In executing the Commission entrusted to us by your Majesty, we have been for more than three years

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almost constantly exercising the functions of visitors and inspectors of schools. We have thus, practically, learnt the importance of these offices, and we have seen many abuses remedied, in consequence merely of the attention directed to them by investigations held in our public courts.

The experience which has been forced upon ourselves has convinced us that the visitation of schools, in order to be effective, must be conducted in a systematic manner. It is not enough to provide visitors, at whose hands remedies may be sought for abuses that have actually grown up: schools ought to be inspected, from time to time, with a view to *prevent* abuses, by insisting upon an exact adherence to prescribed rules of management. The inspection for this purpose can hardly be too minute; the inspector ought to examine all the classes, so as to ascertain the progress of every scholar, and not merely the proficiency of the most advanced. In some cases it would be desirable that he should judge of the master's capacity for teaching, by hearing him give a lesson to a class. He ought to ascertain the attendance of the pupils, and the general state of discipline. It would also be his duty to examine the condition of the school premises, noting whether they are in a proper state of repair, and kept with a due regard to neatness and order. It is obvious that a complete inspection will occupy a considerable time. The inspector, therefore, ought to be enabled to perform his duty without hurry. Each school ought to be visited at least twice a year: more frequent inspections would be desirable. It appears to us to be inexpedient to give notice of the inspector's intention to visit. When he gives the master time to prepare for his reception, he is sure not to see the school in its average state. The inspector ought to have special qualifications, and be carefully trained; he ought also to have such a social position as would entitle him to the respect of the master. The outline which we have here given of his duties and qualifications renders it manifest that the office of inspector must be liberally remunerated; but we assert, with confidence, that no outlay incurred in the management of a system of schools is so indispensable as that which makes provision for the salary of a competent inspector. The influence of this officer is felt in even more ways than we have indicated; he becomes more useful in each particular school, as his field of duty becomes wider; he is continually gathering materials which enable him to discharge his functions in a more efficient manner; and he carries with him, from one school to another, ideas of improvement, which may not occur to the schoolmaster himself, absolutely confined to one spot, and possessing less opportunities of learning what progress has been made in the principles and practice of education.

Hitherto we have spoken of the necessity and mode of conducting inspections by paid officers, acting under the authority of the Governors of schools; but we are not of opinion that such an arrangement fulfils all the conditions of an adequate visitation. To render it complete, the Governors ought occasionally to visit their schools in person, in order that they may judge with their own eyes of the state of the institutions, and on the spot institute inquiries and take measures, transcending the authority of an inspector. The name of Visitor is but improperly applied to those who never visit the institutions committed to their care. It may, no doubt, be urged on their behalf, that their primary duties frequently leave them no time to exercise the functions of visitors. This leads us to consider a fundamental defect in the constitution of Boards charged with the superintendence of Endowed Schools. Many of the component members of these bodies are named *ex officio*, as holding offices of dignity and responsibility, and already charged with onerous duties, the performance of which occupies nearly all their time and thoughts. Persons thus circumstanced cannot pay such continuous and regular attention to the business of a charity as would be required for its efficient management. The number of persons constituting these Boards is also, in some cases, calculated to weaken the sense of individual responsibility, which is the less definite, as all the members hold a purely honorary office.

The governing bodies being indisposed, or not well fitted to exercise the functions of visitation, it became the more necessary that they should institute efficient means of inspection through the agency of paid officers. This has been either left undone, or the means provided have fallen short of the exigencies of the service.

The Commissioners of Education employ no permanent inspectors, and they have very sparingly exercised the ample powers of visitation committed to them by the Act of Parliament under which their Board was constituted. From February, 1835, until November, 1856, the Board held only eight visitations,

either in person or by deputy; and the
ings do not appear to us to have been
of the Commissioners has urged, in
restricted in consequence of their
expenses incurred in visiting and instituting
protect the property of school endowments
trusts. It appears to us that the Act which
schools under their jurisdiction, enabled them
expenses unavoidably incurred in the performance
opinion that the Commissioners could have been
inspectors and organizing a complete system of visitation
that the Act of Parliament did not furnish them with
the Commissioners ought long ago to have sought for its
themselves unable to perform their duties whilst unprovided
resources.

The Grammar Schools under the Board of Erasmus Smith
without inspection or visitation, although the Charter imposes
the Governors, and prohibits the exercise of a visitatorial power
by any other party. The consequences of the neglect were as
have been expected; and we believe that the knowledge of them
forced upon the Governors, in consequence of our inquiries, will
better management of these schools in future.

The Governors have appointed a clergyman to inspect the English
which they maintain or assist; but we think that this inspection is
This gentleman has other duties to perform as Registrar to the Board of
Governors, and can only devote five months in the year to his business as
inspector, in the discharge of which, he is obliged to visit about one hundred
and twenty schools, scattered over the whole of Ireland. Although this gentle-
man has manifested great ability and diligence, we think that it is physically
impossible for him to accomplish such a visitation of these schools as it is the
duty of the Governors to provide.

The visitation of the boarding schools under the care of the Incorporated
Society, is very efficient. Members of the Committee, themselves gentlemen
of high attainments, and thoroughly conversant with all the affairs of the
Society, gratuitously devote a considerable portion of their time to the arduous
labour of visiting the schools, and conducting the competitive examinations
which are held in each of them. There is reason, however, to doubt, whether
the Society can depend upon the continuance of this system. Its success is owing
to the zeal and ability of the gentlemen who at present take an active part in
managing the affairs of the society; and even if such services might always be
counted upon, we do not think that they would dispense with the need of
employing a paid inspector, directly responsible to the Board. The reports
which we have received as to the mode of conducting the inspection of the
primary schools under this society, are not so favourable; and we believe, that
they would be rendered more efficient, if subjected to the visits of an inspector,
making his appearance unexpectedly from time to time.

With the exception of those which have the advantage of being visited by
the officers of the National Board, very few other endowed schools enjoy the
benefit of an adequate inspection. It might be supposed that the superintendence
exercised by persons resident in the neighbourhood of the schools, and especially
by clergymen, would compensate for this want; and the founders of charities
appear to have placed much confidence in the sufficiency of such a control.
Our experience does not warrant us in asserting that these expectations
have been realized. If residence in the neighbourhood of the charity to be
inspected, confers some advantages upon a trustee or governor, we have found
that these are more than counterbalanced by disturbing influences. Local super-
intendents are more liable to be misled by personal or party feelings; they are
also too frequently deterred by an unwillingness to offend a neighbour, from
carrying into effect those decisions to which they would be led by a strict
regard to the interests of the charity; they are, also, generally wanting in that
special experience in educational matters which the governors of schools ought to
possess. For these reasons, we think, that however useful their services may be in
checking deviations from a prescribed routine, they cannot be relied upon for
the discharge of the more critical duties connected with instruction and discipline.

General Results of the Inquiry.

We have found reason, on several occasions, to notice the neglect of Governors to make rules for the guidance of schoolmasters and other officers acting under their directions. Moreover, the rules which have been made are not sufficiently published, and frequently become obsolete for want of any inquiries into their observance. Ignorance of the objects of endowments is therefore by no means uncommon, even among the persons employed in administering their affairs. Many instances came before us where Governors and registrars confessed to an almost total ignorance of the charters and other documents declaring the objects and past history of the charities. It is true, that this kind of knowledge can only be acquired at the expense of considerable labour; but it is absolutely essential to the managers of an institution; and we believe that the want of it is commonly excused, because Boards of Governors, in general, consist of persons, not one of whom could reasonably be expected to take the pains to master the contents of registers and account books. Trustees, the greater part of whose time is occupied with their private business, find it impossible to acquire this kind of knowledge, and are obliged to guide themselves by the routine of a practice supported by the authority of former trustees and officers. Some of the preceding observations receive a remarkable illustration in the history of the Board of Erasmus Smith's Schools. The treasurer and registrar of this great foundation, when examined before us, appeared to possess but little acquaintance with the charter and other records of the foundation. No rules for the regulation of the grammar schools appear to have been promulgated since 1712; and neither the code of rules then made, nor that which the founder drew up appears to have been known to the Governors, or they would no doubt have complied with the regulations by which the benefits of these schools were restricted to members of the United Church. In fact, the Governors appear to have thought it unnecessary to make rules for the regulation of the grammar schools, inasmuch as they have left them to the control of the masters; and they have regarded these schools as being the private schools of the masters, who are assisted by a small salary, and by grants for occasional repairs, rather than as public schools belonging to the Governors, and administered under their direction for the public benefit.

A very considerable part of the duties devolving upon individuals or Boards administering school trusts have relation to the financial affairs of the charities. In our inquiries into the manner in which these duties have been fulfilled, we have not only endeavoured to ascertain the nature and amount of the property now constituting each endowment, but we have sought for information as to the means taken to provide for its safety and proper application.

The total amount of the property available towards the maintenance of Endowed Schools in Ireland is very considerable. Excluding such National Schools as have no permanent endowments other than sites, we find that these charities in operation possess 75,600 acres of land, the rents of which amount to £37,500. The estimated annual value of the school premises is about £14,500; and the revenue arising out of trust funds is about £16,500; thus the aggregate value of school endowments in Ireland amounts at present to about £68,500 per annum. Under better management, we believe that the revenues, in many cases, might have been increased, and losses might have been avoided which have been incurred, owing to the operation of causes of various kinds.

We shall here briefly notice the defects which we have observed in the administration of the school estates. In the first place, we have to complain that great negligence has been shown in the care of the records relating to the several endowments. Charters and title-deeds have been in many cases lost, and schedules of them appear to have been but seldom prepared. A serious case of disregard to the preservation of foundation deeds and other documents of the same nature came before us in our inquiries into the administration of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland. Neither the secretary nor the solicitors of the Board appeared to have any such records in their custody, and the former even intimated a doubt as to their existence. Serious losses appear to have been incurred by the Blue Coat Hospital, in consequence of the neglect of their officers to preserve the leases and maps of the school lands; and to this negligence must no doubt be ascribed a very great encroachment upon the estates of the charity. In this manner, lands to the extent of about 100 acres appear to have been irrecoverably lost. Several other instances of the loss of school lands

have been brought under our notice. Some of these may have been caused by the objectionable practice of allowing masters to grant trust leases for their own benefit, but we believe they are in general traceable to the want of an efficient system of registration of landed property. In some instances leases have been improperly made, and tenants, through lapse of time, have been allowed to acquire rights destructive of the interests of the charity. Thus, about 150 years ago, fee-farm grants were made of lands bequeathed for the support of a Blue Coat School in the city of Cork; the reserved rents being only about £400 per annum, although the annual revenues now arising out of these lands are represented to us as exceeding £7,000. The trustees by whom these grants were executed, had no powers authorizing them to make such a conveyance. We regret to be obliged to report, that legal opinions and decisions already given, almost preclude the hope of recovering the property thus improperly alienated.

Having received evidence indicating unsatisfactory management of the estates under the charge of some of the public boards, and also under the care of private trustees, we applied to your Majesty's Government, praying that an Inspector of Estates might be appointed to inquire into these matters. His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland accordingly selected James William Murland, Esq., for the performance of this office; and that gentleman, acting in accordance with our instructions, has minutely inquired into the management of the most considerable estates belonging to endowed schools in Ireland.

In his report on the estates belonging to the Royal Schools he has commented on some practices which appear to us to be very objectionable. One of these was a system which continued to exist down to the year 1853, of serving tenants on the Dungannon School Estate, whether they were in arrear or not, with periodical notices to quit, and that at a great expense to the charity. This system was, in our opinion, both unjust and impolitic, since it placed the punctual and deserving on the same level with the negligent and dishonest tenant. It is also calculated to produce one of the worst evils attendant upon the accumulation of arrears, namely, that the tenant who knows that he is liable to eviction at any moment, is disposed to suffer his farm and buildings to go to ruin. Mr. Murland also reports, that proper measures have not been taken to clear off the arrears due by the tenants on some of the Royal School Estates. For instance, on the Enniskillen Estate, the arrears of rent due, when the agent furnished his account in October, 1855, amounted to nearly four and a-half years' rent of the whole property; while as much as seven, eight, and nine years' rent was then owing on many individual holdings. To the tenants thus in arrear allowances were made from time to time, and receipts for rent were only given on account, so that it was difficult to know how the tenants stood, and properly to check the agent's accounts. The Inspector notices the subdivision of farms, as another of the causes which have produced the present unsatisfactory condition of the estates attached to the Royal Schools. Mr. Murland reports, that the Banagher School Estate has not been judiciously managed. Large arrears of rent were lost about the year 1849, and the agent was dismissed as a defaulter for sums which the Commissioners of Education failed to recover from the surety. The estate being then relet, at a period of distress, the rents reserved were considerably below the present value. As the Commissioners of Education have selected local agents, differing very much in character and intelligence, there was reason to expect a want of uniformity in many matters equally affecting all the estates committed to their management. Thus, for example, on some improvements have been made or encouraged by the Commissioners; the payments of rents at a proper valuation, and the rendering of accounts by the agents has been attended to; the subdivision of land has been prevented, and convenient schools have been provided for the tenantry; while on others, all these matters have been disregarded.

The Inspector has reported to us that the management of the estates forming the endowment of Erasmus Smith's Schools is, in general, to be commended. He observes, however, that it admits of improvement in some important respects. Sufficient care has not been taken to guard against the evils of subletting and exhausting the land. We also had occasion to notice the unusually large amount of the arrears which were abandoned by the Governors between the years 1845 and 1850. The net receipts lodged in the bank to the credit of the Governors during that period did not exceed half the gross rental of the property. The Inspector ascribes this heavy loss to the evils which we have just referred to.

General Results of the Inquiry.

The management of the estates of the Incorporated Society is reported to us as having been careful and judicious.

Much negligence appears to have been shown in the collection of the rents of the estates of the Free School of King Charles II., commonly called the Blue Coat Hospital. The losses thus incurred have been considerable; and we are of opinion that they have been mainly owing to the want of a proper system of auditing the accounts of the charity.

The management of estates belonging to other endowed schools in Ireland presents few features of such importance as to deserve notice here. We may remark, however, that the balances sometimes allowed to remain from time to time in the hands of agents appear to be larger than is consistent with an exact regard to the interests of the charities.

With the aid of a professional accountant appointed to assist us in our inquiries, we have examined, minutely, into the mode in which the accounts of several school charities have been kept. The charters of some foundations provide that annual accounts shall be rendered of all the revenues belonging to them; and, without such periodical balances of the assets and liabilities of the charity, it would be impossible to determine the proper application of surplus funds.

We have been called upon to notice some instances of a culpable neglect to observe this regulation. Towards the close of the year 1843, the Governors of Erasmus Smith's schools appear to have directed their accounts to be kept by a system of double entry; but, from that date down to the period of our inquiry, the plan of accounting which they adopted was but imperfectly carried into effect. Their books were not balanced for a period of eleven years, so as to show the precise condition of the finances of the Board, and many essential accounts were either never opened or not kept up. We did not discover that any fraud or serious misapplication of the school funds arose out of this laxity; but we could not avoid the conclusion, that, if the charity has suffered neither loss nor entanglement in its financial affairs, its escape from these bad consequences has been owing to the integrity of the individuals through whose hands money has been allowed to pass without the control of the ordinary checks, and, above all, to the great experience and ability of Mr. Barlow, the present Treasurer.

We found that the accounts of the Incorporated Society were regularly kept, according to the plan prescribed by the Committee; but the form of keeping them was not such as to enable the Society to distinguish between income and capital, a distinction required by the provisions of the charter. The Committee, at our suggestion, have rectified this error, and their accounts are now kept on a system of book-keeping by double entry.

In our review of the accounts of the Commissioners of Education, we found that certain expenses of visitation and law costs had been improperly charged to the account of some of the charities under the superintendence of the Commissioners. This error appears to have arisen from the difficulty which they felt in providing for the incidental expenses attendant upon the transaction of their business.

It is unnecessary here to dwell upon the inaccuracies which were discovered by us in the accounts of the smaller school endowments. Our accountant detected but few actual mistakes and consequent losses to the funds of the charities; but he reported to us the prevalence of irregularities which certainly endanger them. The practical conclusion to which we have been led, as regards this portion of our inquiries, is, that the accounts of school endowments are, in general, ill kept, because they are imperfectly audited. This office is seldom committed to persons who are sufficiently well acquainted with money matters and accounts to be able to perform it in a strictly methodical manner. We may here notice that the accounts usually kept indicate no more than the annual income and expenditure; they fail to exhibit the state of the capital belonging to the charity. This omission appears to us to be attended with very considerable danger, and perhaps it is in consequence of it that encroachments have been made upon charity funds. Many instances have been brought under our notice, where stock belonging to parochial schools has been sold without any record of the transaction, or any proof that it was sanctioned by proper authority. We are convinced that the willingness of benevolent persons to make charitable donations must be very much abated, unless they receive assurance that the State will watch over the execution of their intentions and the safe-keeping of the trust funds.

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS.

Summary of Suggestions.

The commission entrusted to us by your Majesty imposed the two-fold duty of reporting the existing condition of the endowed schools in Ireland, and of suggesting such plans for their improvement and the advancement of education, as we should deem expedient and practicable. The information obtained on the first of these heads, by means of the evidence given at our Public Courts, and our own visitation of many of the principal endowed schools in Ireland, as well as through the inquiries conducted by our Assistant Commissioners, has been largely employed in the construction of the Tables of Schools and Endowments which we have the honour of submitting to your Majesty. Of the knowledge thus acquired, much will be found in our Special Reports upon the various classes of endowed schools, and such individual schools as appeared to require particular notice. These also, to a considerable extent, embody the recommendations which it formed a part of our duty to make, and we have endeavoured to complete the second branch of our subject, by devoting distinct chapters of our Report to several matters, the importance and frequent recurrence of which rendered their consideration in a separate shape desirable.

Tables, vol. iii.

We now desire to present in a single and connected view, the general conclusions at which we have arrived, and the recommendations which we humbly submit to your Majesty, as the final results of our labours.

We have arranged these recommendations under six heads, according as they relate, first, to endowments generally, irrespective of their special nature or objects; secondly, to the various classes of non-exclusive endowments placed under central management; thirdly, to the promotion of intermediate education; fourthly, to the several classes of exclusive schools placed under central management; fifthly, to groups of schools existing in particular localities; or, sixthly, to individual endowments, placed under the management of local trustees or special governors.

I.

Recommendations relating to Schools and Endowments generally, irrespective of their special Nature or Objects.

The General Government of Schools.

We are of opinion—

1. That the intentions of the founders of all private school trusts should be adhered to.

2. That the chief causes of abuse and inefficiency in endowed schools of all kinds are the following:—

a. The want of inspection, conducted with authority by duly qualified inspectors, visiting at short and uncertain intervals. Ibid. pp. 253, 261–2.

b. The want of properly trained masters receiving adequate remuneration, and animated in the discharge of their duty by the prospects of promotion and of retiring pensions as the reward of faithful service. Ibid. pp. 225–6, 251–3.

c. The smallness of many of the endowments. Ibid. pp. 188–9, 252.

d. The incomplete and unsafe modes at present in use of keeping the accounts of school funds and revenues, and the want of a proper system of audit. Ibid. pp. 194, 228–33.

e. The want of a clear definition and public announcement of the qualifications and rights of pupils to free admission. Ibid. pp. 46, 63, 121, 258–9.

3. That it is possible to separate the courses of secular and religious instruction so far as to enable scholars of different religious denominations to receive instruction of the former kind in the same school, without compromise of opinions or risk of offence; and that one of the chief recommendations of day schools, and of the great advantages which these possess over boarding schools, consists in the facilities which they afford for combining home instruction in religious and moral principles with school instruction of a purely secular nature. Ibid. pp. 213–4.

4. That the trustees of all boarding-schools should be enabled to discontinue the boarding department, and to employ the endowment in the support of the pupils as residents in families specially selected on the principle of their holding the same religious belief, and residing in localities where the children can attend day-schools approved of by their parents or guardians, and where they can also enjoy the spiritual instruction and care of the clergy of the same denomination. Ibid. p. 175.

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS.

Vide pp. 33, 189, 252, *supra*.
Ibid. pp. 38, 40, 42.
Ibid. pp. 215, 250.

5. That it is objectionable for the master to be allowed to conduct a school in connexion with any other office or appointment.

6. That any delay in the appointment of masters in vacancies in schools is peculiarly injurious, as the education of the children is interrupted, and the risk incurred of the school being entirely broken up.

7. That masters should be required to record the infliction of flogging in the report-book of the school, and that the observance of this rule should be rigidly enforced.

Ibid. pp. 46, 63, 121, 258-9.

8. That the intentions of founders, as to free admissions, are very generally evaded; that the trustees, and others charged with the management, should take steps to define clearly the rights of free admission; that they ought strictly to enforce the observance of the rules thus framed, to make them known to the persons interested, by a public announcement, and to guard, by examination or otherwise, against any abuse of the privilege of nomination, so as to secure to all those intended to be benefited the full and fair opportunity of sharing in the privilege of free admission.

Ibid. pp. 215, 250.

9. That it is desirable that a well-regulated system of distributing prizes should be established in connexion with all endowed schools.

Inspection of Schools.

We are of opinion—

Ibid. pp. 181, 191, 253, 261-3.

10. That systematic inspection and periodical examinations are essential in order to maintain the efficiency of schools; and that the want of inspection, conducted with authority, by duly qualified Inspectors, visiting at short and uncertain intervals, constitutes one of the chief causes of abuse and inefficiency in Endowed Schools of all kinds.

Ibid. pp. 165, 262-3.

11. That visitors and trustees should be required by statute to visit the schools at least once a-year; that the visitation should be in public, and after due notice; that the results of the visitation, with the rules, orders, and decisions of the visitors should be published in the *Dublin Gazette*, and also in some newspaper circulating in the locality; and that copies of all reports, rules, orders, and decisions of visitors and trustees should be deposited with the proposed Registrar of School Endowments.

Ibid pp. 181, 182, 190.

12. That *ex officio* trustees should be empowered to appoint representatives to act in their place on any Board that they find themselves unable to attend; the representative to hold office for a fixed period, specified in his appointment, not being less than one, or more than three years, provided the person who appointed him should so long hold the office which gives him the right of being trustee, the representative, when once appointed, to possess all the powers of a trustee; and that in case an *ex officio* trustee does not attend, the other trustees of the charity should have power to call on him to appoint a representative, and, in default of his doing so, to appoint one themselves.

Teachers.

We are of opinion—

Ibid. pp. 158, 165, 191, 201, 206, 215, 225.

13. That the want of properly trained masters, receiving adequate remuneration, and animated in the discharge of their duty by the prospects of promotion, and of retiring pensions, as the reward of faithful service, constitutes one of the chief causes of abuse and inefficiency in Endowed Schools of all kinds.

Ibid. pp. 33, 189, 252.

14. That the provision made for the teachers ought to be such as to enable them to maintain themselves and to provide for their families in a manner suitable to their education and position in society, without its being necessary for them to resort to any extraneous employment as a means of livelihood.

Ibid. pp. 158, 165, 225-6.

15. That with a view to the adoption of a system of superannuation, so far as may be practicable, statutable provision should be made, enabling the trustees of charities to grant retiring pensions to masters in recognition of faithful service.

Ibid. p. 226.

16. That the following plan is well adapted to form the basis for a system of superannuation as regards all endowments, the amount of which admits of its being put in execution; namely, that the age for retirement should be fixed, and that schoolmasters should be required to insure a sum equal to, at least, three times their annual salary, payable at that period, or at death, whichever

should first happen, the policy being assigned to the managers of the school, and the premiums paid by a deduction from salaries where the salary is large, and by an increase where the salaries are too small to admit of this being properly done.

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS.

Course of Instruction.

We are of opinion—

17. That the requirements of a liberal system of modern education embrace instruction not only in the classics and mathematics, but in the English language and literature, foreign languages, and the experimental and natural sciences. *Vide* pp. 198-212, *supra.*

18. That with adequate endowments, competent masters, and suitable arrangements, such a combined course can be made the basis of a general system of intermediate education. Ibid. p. 204.

19. That the extent to which it can be carried out as a whole, and the relative development given to each department in the education of the individual pupil, must vary with circumstances, and especially with the period during which his stay at school is prolonged, and the sphere of active life for which he is destined. Ibid. p. 208.

20. That pupils of the middle class, intended for the pursuits of agriculture, commerce, and manufacture, might with advantage carry on the study of Latin, provided they are not likely to be removed from school at too early a period. Ibid. p. 204.

21. That the practice of oral instruction should be adopted in all departments much more generally than is done at present. Ibid. pp. 204, 207, &c.

22. That the general supervision of the English, no less than of the classical and scientific departments, is an essential part of the duty of the head master; and that its conduct and management ought to be committed to the charge of accomplished scholars. Ibid. p. 199.

23. That the amount of time and attention at present devoted to the English department and modern languages in most Grammar Schools is very insufficient; and that the existing methods of teaching these branches are defective. Ibid. pp. 199, &c., 202, &c.

24. That the system of classical instruction hitherto pursued in Grammar Schools in Ireland is defective, and requires alteration by diminishing the amount of time at present devoted to the study of the dead languages, and improving the method of teaching them. Ibid. p. 204.

25. That the scientific course in intermediate schools should be enlarged by the introduction of the elements of astronomy, experimental physics, chemistry, and the biological sciences for the more advanced classes. Ibid. pp. 208-12.

26. That it is desirable that funds should exist in connexion with all endowed intermediate schools for providing the models and instruments essential for illustrating astronomy and the physical sciences; laboratories for elementary instruction in chemistry; and collections of objects relating to natural history. Ibid. p. 208-9.

27. That instruction in book-keeping, mensuration, and drawing, should form a part of the general course in all schools; and that navigation should be taught in such as are situate in or near seaports. Ibid. pp. 212-14.

28. That proper attention should be paid in girl's schools for all classes, but especially in primary schools, to instruction in needlework, as forming part of their general education; but that the teaching of lace-making and fancy work should not be allowed to take the place of this, or to interfere with the main object of giving a sound mental and moral training. Ibid. p. 213.

29. That, in schools for training teachers, instruction in music, and especially in singing from note, should be given to all who are capable of receiving it; and that vocal music should be made a part of the general system of education. Ibid. pp. 216-7.

Registration of School Endowments.

We are of opinion—

30. That a separate Office should be established for the Registration of School Endowments, where the originals or copies of all deeds, wills, and other documents containing trusts for school purposes, or perfect extracts therefrom, should be lodged and committed to the custody of an officer exclusively charged with the duty of preserving and arranging them, and making their contents accessible and known to the public; and that the cost of maintaining this office, together with all expenses incidental thereto, properly incurred in the exercise of the Registrar's functions, should be borne by the Consolidated Fund. Ibid. p. 227.

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS.

Schoolhouses and Premises.

We are of opinion—

Vide pp. 130, 181, 190, 194, *supra.*

56. That in cases where it can be proved that the public money was expended on the faith of a promised grant, steps should now be taken for having such intention carried into effect; and that legislative provision should, so far as may be necessary, be made for empowering the present owners, or persons on their behalf, to complete such grants, and enabling the trustees to enforce the execution of the agreement originally made.

Ibid. pp. 99, 187, 191.

57. That boards intrusted with the actual management of endowed schools should be empowered to change their locality, and also to dispose of the existing school sites and premises, or portions thereof, by way either of exchange or sale (the proceeds of such sale to be invested in land, head-rents, or Government security), where such a course may be deemed by them desirable; the consent thereto of the proposed Board of Endowed Schools being first obtained as to endowments under their jurisdiction, and that of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council in all other cases.

18 & 19 Vic. c. 39. *Vide* pp. 187–8, *supra.*

58. That the title conferred on grants made under the provisions of the "Leasing Powers Act for Religious Worship (Ireland), 1855," should be made an absolute Parliamentary title.

Ibid. pp. 130, 190, 194.

59. That leasing powers should be conferred on all persons under disabilities, enabling them, or others on their behalf, to execute grants of land for the use of schools, not exceeding half an acre in towns, or two acres in the country; and that grants so made should give an absolute Parliamentary title.

Management of Estates.

We are of opinion—

Ibid. p. 239.

60. That the local management of endowed school estates should be intrusted to agents chosen with a careful regard to their skill, energy, and character; their residence near the property, when sufficiently large, and in all cases their ability to visit it frequently, being made indispensable. The circumstance of their having successfully conducted and continuing to hold other agencies for neighbouring estates being regarded as constituting an additional qualification.

Ibid.

61. That the agents should be required to adopt a uniform system of printed rentals and accounts, and that the latter should, in every case, be furnished within six months after the gale-day to which they are made out, stating the date when each tenant paid his rent, and showing all the items, both of receipts and expenditure, up to the period of rendering it.

Ibid.

62. That whenever the balance in the agent's hands amounted to a specified sum he ought to lodge it in bank.

Ibid.

63. That the agent should, as portion of his general duty, direct his attention to plans for the improvement of the property, subject to the approval of the Trustees; and should especially aim at reducing or getting rid of existing arrears, and preventing their future accumulation, by insisting on the punctual payment of the rents, or, in proper cases, by their temporary abatement or remission.

Ibid. pp. 239, 240.

64. That the Trustees should adopt a system of inspection of estates with a view to secure both the efficiency of the agents and uniformity in the general management; that the inspection of each estate should take place annually, and be such as a prudent landlord would make of his own estate, and consequently that the person to conduct the inspection ought to be in such a position as to command the respect of the agent and tenants.

Ibid. p. 240.

65. That general rules should be promulgated, for the guidance of both agents and tenants, against the subletting and dividing of farms, and the exhaustion of the land, and that covenants prohibiting these practices should be inserted in all agricultural leases; and that the Trustees should turn their attention to general plans for the improvement of the properties, varying, of course, with the circumstances and locality of these, and based on the principle either of executing the required works themselves, or of assisting the tenants in doing so; an additional rent being charged by way of interest for the sums thus expended or advanced.

Ibid.

66. That powers to grant agricultural leases for the term of twenty-one years, and building leases for long terms, should, under proper precautions, be given to all Boards and Trustees having estates for endowed schools under their management.

Ibid. pp. 237–8.

67. That it is not desirable or safe to intrust the exercise of leasing powers,

even for agricultural purposes, to the agent solely, but that his recommendations should be reviewed by an inspector, to whom the general supervision and control of the estates should, subject to the approval of the trustees, be confided.

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS.

68. That lands granted or devised for the endowment of schools should, as a general rule, be preserved; but that with a view to the advantageous consolidation of the property, or for the purpose of otherwise rendering the management of the endowments more easy and economical, Boards and Trustees should be empowered to sell school estates vested in them, reinvesting the proceeds in land; the consent of the proposed Board of Endowed Schools being first obtained as to endowments under their jurisdiction, and that of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council in all other cases. *Vide* pp. 99, 247, *supra.*

II.

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO NON-EXCLUSIVE* SCHOOLS AND ENDOWMENTS PLACED UNDER CENTRAL MANAGEMENT.

Government and Superintendence of Non-Exclusive Schools and Endowments, and proposed Board of Endowed Schools.

We are of opinion—

1. That the Statutes constituting the Commissioners of Education in Ireland should be repealed, and that a new Board should be established, composed of a sufficient number of members, all of whom ought to be nominated by the Government, and selected with a due regard to the representation of the various religious persuasions; that one of the Commissioners should receive a salary, and be expected to devote his whole time to the business of the Board; and that the educational function being the primary and most important office of such an institution, the paid Commissioner should be selected mainly with a view to the promotion of this end. *Vide* p. 246, *supra.*

2. That it is essential to establish a system of efficient and periodical inspection of schools, and that this can only be conducted by an Inspector, well trained, and adequately paid; that this officer, or, if needed, several paid Inspectors, should be connected with the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools, and that it should be part of the duty of the paid Commissioner to make visitations with reference to some, at all events, of the chief schools. Ibid.

3. That a secretary and other subordinate officers would be necessary; that provision should be made for the paid inspection of the school estates; and that the expenses of the proposed Board should be borne by the Consolidated Fund, in conformity with the principle established by the 53rd Geo. III. c. 107. Ibid.

4. That, as the proposed Board would be a mixed one, constituted for the superintendence of non-exclusive schools, their jurisdiction should not extend to exclusive schools, under which term we mean to include those into which pupils of only one religious persuasion have a right of admission, or the trustees of which, being of one religious persuasion, have power to compel all the pupils to receive religious instruction in their own tenets. Ibid.

5. That, with the exception of exclusive schools, as above defined, and also of any primary school, the trustees of which shall place it in connexion with the National Board, all other endowed schools in Ireland should be placed under the proposed Board of Endowed Schools; and that the new Commissioners should have powers enabling them to inspect, regulate, and superintend the management of these, similar to those now intrusted to the Commissioners of Education in Ireland. Ibid.

6. That the property, as well as the management of the Royal and Diocesan Schools, and of all other non-exclusive schools now vested in the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, ought to be transferred to the proposed Board, with power (where necessary or deemed advisable) to redistribute the revenues, to consolidate or divide the schools, and to remove them to different localities. Ibid.

7. That the Commissioners should, so far as is consistent with the existing rights of private patronage, have the appointment of the head masters of all schools vested in them; and should, in addition to this, possess a large measure of control over, and a power of dismissing, the teachers in such schools for inefficiency or other sufficient cause shown, although no actual misconduct might exist or could be proved; and that they should also be empowered to regulate the salaries of the teachers and assistant teachers in such schools, to promote them, and, in cases of faithful service, to grant retiring pensions. Ibid. & p. 225.

* For definition of Exclusive and Non-exclusive schools, *vide* paragraph No. 4 in this page.

cases to make him assign his holding to the nearest tenant who might be able to manage it; and that these rules should be strictly enforced; that the funds of the Enniskillen Royal School, which have been applied towards the building of the Cavan schoolhouse, should not be considered as a loan, but as having been applied by the Commissioners of Education, under the powers conferred on them by the Act of 1822; and that the further debt, if any, for this schoolhouse, should, in like manner, be defrayed out of the funds of the other Royal Schools. *Vide* p. 58, *supra*.

47. That sufficient school accommodation should be provided at a convenient distance for the children of the tenantry on the Enniskillen estate. Ibid. p. 235.

48. That the income which the Ecclesiastical Commissioners receive from the lands ascertained to have been intended for the founding a Royal Free School in the county of Tyrone, should be made over to the Clogher School, and secured to it as a permanent endowment. Ibid. p. 59.

49. That steps should be taken to have a National School established at a convenient distance for the attendance of children on the townland of Derrytresk, forming part of the Dungannon Royal School estate. Ibid. p. 235.

50. That in case the recommendation with reference to the Hon. the Irish Society, made by the Commissioners who inquired into the Corporation of London in 1854, be adopted, the 300 acres shown to have been originally allotted for a free school or an equivalent for them, ought to be separated from the property of the Irish Society, and attached to the Foyle College, Londonderry, which should thenceforth be called the Londonderry Royal Free School. Ibid. p. 60, 167.

51. That the plan above recommended for the reduction of arrears of rent on the Cavan and Enniskillen Royal School Estates should be applied to the Raphoe Royal School Estate. Ibid. p. 236.

Non-Exclusive Schools and Endowments of Private Foundation under the Commissioners of Education in Ireland.

We are of opinion—

52. That all the non-exclusive endowments of private foundation vested in, and properly coming within the jurisdiction of, the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, should be respectively transferred to, and placed under, the superintendence of the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools. Ibid. pp. 246-7.

53. That the schools of Mullaghmore and Rathvilly, being non-exclusive schools, should be removed from the inspection of the Church Education Society. Ibid. pp. 119, 120, 121.

Schools under the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland.

We are of opinion—

54. That the principle of the School Leasing Powers Act of 1810 should be extended, so as to render all leases that have been or shall be made for National Schools valid, without the assent of the bishop of the diocese; and that the Parliamentary title conferred by the Act of 1824, should be extended to all such leases. Ibid. p. 134.

55. That all the leases and endowments of National Schools should be registered in the proposed Office for the Registration of School Endowments. Ibid.

Endowments for Schools under Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests.

We are of opinion—

56. That it should be the primary duty of the Bequest Board to institute proceedings for recovering trust funds in all cases where such proceedings affect charities not under the care of the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools. Ibid. p. 106.

57. That it should be the primary duty of the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools to proceed where the entire funds to be recovered would come under their care. Ibid.

58. That, as to funds falling under the jurisdiction of both Boards, either Board might take proceedings on the neglect by or with the consent of the other.

59. That the Bequest Board should not retain any funds belonging to, or any control over, schools under the jurisdiction of the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools, but should transfer the funds, as soon as realized, to the latter Board. Ibid.

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS.

supplied in a department of the school specially devoted to this purpose, at a charge not exceeding £6 a-year for day scholars; and that in the classical department the practical branches of a good English education ought also to receive great attention.

Vide p. 63, *supra*.

37. That the right of free admission being unlimited, is practically defeated; that a minimum number of free places should be fixed by statute, with power to the proposed Board, on the appointment of a new master, to increase the number; that the free places should be open to all without distinction of locality or religion, the greater number being awarded by competition at a public examination, but some being reserved to be given on grounds of poverty, under regulations of the proposed Board; that free places should only be held on condition of good conduct and progress in the school; and that the power of making regulations as to the tenure of the free places, the management of the examinations, and of the tests of good conduct and progress should be intrusted to the proposed Board.

Ibid. pp. 63, 260.

38. That inasmuch as the Queen's Colleges of Belfast, Cork, and Galway, and the Queen's University in Ireland have been established since the power of granting exhibitions out of the funds of the Royal Free Schools was created, and as the persons receiving university education in Ireland appear likely to become more numerous, these exhibitions should be increased in number; that they should be awarded at examinations to be held under the direction of the proposed Board; that the qualifications requisite for retaining them should extend to distinctions obtained either in Trinity College, Dublin, or any of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland; and that the exhibitions ought to be so regulated as to be open to pupils educated at the Royal Free Schools, without distinction.

Ibid. pp. 64, 259.

39. That when the funds admit of it, school scholarships should be established in connexion with each of the Royal Free Schools, to be given away by examination under regulations made by the proposed Board.

Ibid. p. 64.

40. That increased powers should be conferred on the proposed Board to enable them to apply the funds of the wealthier schools to the foundation of exhibitions and school scholarships and other objects, for the benefit of the less wealthy schools, so as to place the six Royal Free Grammar Schools in an efficient state, and to make them capable of promoting a complete system of intermediate education in the localities in which they are placed.

Ibid. pp. 56, 58, 61, 64.

41. That the funds of the wealthier Royal Schools should, in accordance with the existing statutable powers, be applied to defray the cost of school buildings and repairs at Banagher, Cavan, and Raphoe.

Ibid. p. 56.

42. That the restriction of the free places, by a property qualification of the parents, and the limitation of them to the children of tenants on the Royal School estate, and of inhabitants of the town of Armagh, is objectionable, and should be discontinued.

Ibid. p. 235.

43. That measures should be taken to diminish the amount of the arrears on the Armagh Royal School estate, by making to the tenants on it the same abatements—amounting, in the whole, to one half year's rent—that were made to those on the Dungannon estate; and that proceedings should be taken for the removal of such tenants as are unable to pay the residue of the rent due.

Ibid. p. 236.

44. That the Royal School estate of Banagher should be re-valued, with a view to its being re-let, the tenants not being charged for their recent improvements.

Ibid. pp. 235–6.

45. That the existing arrears on the Cavan and Enniskillen Royal School estates should be reduced, where the circumstances of the tenant require it, on the plan recommended by the Inspector of Estates, and which consists in abandoning all arrears due for more than six years; in giving receipts in full for all rent accrued due within that period, on payment of £50 per cent.; and in allowing those who are unable to pay up even the one-half of their arrears in money, to satisfy the debt by executing such improvements as may be marked out for them; all tenants, however, who do not choose to liquidate the arrears in one of these ways, to be removed from the estate.

Ibid. pp. 236–7.

46. That the subdivision of farms on the Cavan and Enniskillen Royal School estates is an evil that requires to be remedied; and that the following plan, recommended by the Inspector of Estates, should be adopted—namely, that notice should be given that no tenant will be allowed, either by will or otherwise, to divide his holding, or permitted to transfer his interest without first having obtained the assent of the agent, whose duty it would be in such

7. That the educational tests best adapted for examinations for the public service would be, of all others, the most general in their character, and therefore those best calculated to direct the efforts of teachers to that course of mental discipline and moral training, the attainment of which constitutes the chief object of a liberal education. SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS. *Vide* p. 224, *supra*.

8. That with a view to the maintenance of this just standard of school education, and in order to avoid the serious evils which would arise from directing the attention and efforts of masters to what may be called the special requirements of the public business, it is very important that the same generality which has hitherto characterized the public competitive examinations should continue to prevail as the application of the system is extended to more numerous branches of your Majesty's service. Ibid.

9. That school scholarships, such as already exist at the Enniskillen Royal Free School, might with advantage be established in connexion with all schools for intermediate education under the proposed Board. Ibid. pp. 64, 259.

IV.

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE SEVERAL CLASSES OF EXCLUSIVE* SCHOOLS AND ENDOWMENTS PLACED UNDER CENTRAL MANAGEMENT.

Schools and Endowments under the Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools.

We are of opinion—

1. That the office of registrar should be separated from that of inspector of schools; and that the former should be a man of business, conversant with public matters, acquainted with book-keeping, and able to check the agents' accounts and advise the Board in relation to their affairs, without its being necessary to have a solicitor constantly present at its meetings. Ibid. p. 82.

2. That the solicitor should only be employed with reference to the transaction of special legal business. Ibid. p. 83.

3. That the office of paid treasurer might be advantageously revived, and separated from the office of chairman; and that it ought to be intrusted to some Governor, whose duty it would be to attend the office regularly, in order to give directions to the registrar, the inspector of schools, and the agents. Ibid.

4. That the auditing of the accounts ought not to be intrusted to the chairman or any Governor, but should be transferred to the proposed Board of Audit in Dublin. Ibid.

5. That the Governors should carry out the directions of the founders as to religious instruction: that they should place their Grammar Schools on an efficient footing; that they should increase the value of the exhibitions attached to the schools; that they ought to draw up instructions for the masters, as to the course of instruction, charges for day scholars and boarders, and other matters of importance; and to appoint a competent inspector to examine the Grammar schools; and that they ought also themselves occasionally to visit the schools, in order to ascertain that the trusts of the charity and their own orders are carried out. Ibid.

6. That the Governors should be empowered to make provision, by way of superannuation, for teachers who have faithfully served them. Ibid. p. 71.

7. That the free places in the Grammar Schools should be defined in number and given away chiefly by examination, but partly on the grounds of poverty; and that the Governors should make regulations on the subject. Ibid. p. 83.

8. That the Inspector of the English Schools should be required to devote his entire time to the duties of his office; but that, inasmuch as the inspection of the four Grammar Schools would not be sufficient to occupy the whole time of one person, this function might be performed by some gentleman holding an educational position in the University of Dublin, with which the charity is connected. Ibid.

9. That the masters of the Grammar Schools should provide a course of English and mercantile education, for boys who may refuse to learn classics. Ibid.

10. That these as well as other Grammar Schools in Ireland, might be benefited by the application of the principle recently adopted in the University of Oxford with respect to middle-class education. Ibid.

11. That the Governors ought not to leave it optional with the masters of the Grammar Schools to take charge of boarders on moderate terms, where suitable buildings have been erected for their reception. Ibid.

* For definition of Exclusive schools, *vide* paragraph 4 in page 273 *supra*.

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS.

Vide p. 83, *supra*.

12. That the Governors should endeavour to secure an increase of salary to their masters, by applying for contributions from the proprietors and clergymen connected with each district, and if unable to obtain an adequate amount of extraneous support, ought rather to diminish the number of their English schools than reduce the salaries of their masters below the sum necessary to secure efficiency.

Ibid. 13. That the Governors should make provision for a better supply of school requisites.

Ibid. 14. That the Governors should convert some of their most efficient English schools into model schools, furnishing training for pupil-teachers.

Ibid. 15. That statutable powers should be given in all cases of persons under disabilities, authorizing the conveyance of the present school sites to the Governors, discharged of the clauses of forfeiture of the school premises now contained in their foundation deeds; and that powers should also be given authorizing the charging of the estates of persons so situated, for the purchase of any school premises which the Governors may determine to surrender.

Ibid. 16. That the Governors should place the Grammar School premises in a suitable state of repair.

Ibid. p. 237. 17. That powers of granting building leases for long terms of years, with proper building covenants, should be conferred on the Governors.

Ibid. 18. That the agricultural leases granted by the Governors, should in future contain proper clauses restraining the tenants from sub-letting and exhausting the lands.

Ibid. p. 238. 19. That the principle of the Renewable Leasehold Conversion Act, should be extended to building leases granted by the Governors under the provisions of the 21st and 22nd Geo. III. c. 27, on part of the Western Estate, situate in the town of Galway.

Schools and Endowments under the Incorporated Society.

We are of opinion—

Ibid. p. 99. 20. That the executive body of the Incorporated Society might be improved by having on it a paid member of the Committee, on whom a special responsibility would devolve, both as regards the visitation of schools and the inspection of estates.

Ibid. 21. That the accounts of the Society ought to be kept upon a system of book-keeping by double entry; and that the audit of the accounts should not be conducted by the members of the Committee or by clergymen, but transferred to the proposed Board of Audit, in Dublin.

Ibid. 22. That the rule limiting the competition for the free places to children educated in Scriptural schools should be discontinued, and the competition be opened to all members of the United Church.

Ibid. & p. 263. 23. That the day schools of the Society should be subject to the inspection of a paid inspector, visiting without notice, and examining all the pupils.

Ibid. p. 163. 24. That the management of the endowments of Bishop Foy's School in Waterford should be transferred to the Society.

Ibid. p. 99. 25. That all schools transferred to the Society, in pursuance of our recommendations, should be made subject, so far as the intentions of the founders admit, to all the rules of the Society, and especially to those which relate to the selection of candidates by competitive examination.

Ibid. 26. That the expense of administering the newly transferred trusts should be defrayed out of the several trust funds.

Ibid. 27. That changes having been introduced into the policy of the Society which may render the sites of some of its schools no longer suited for the purposes for which they were intended, provision should be made, in the case of persons under disabilities, for relieving the Society from restrictions in the deeds of foundation of the schools, or for charging the estates of such persons for the purpose of re-purchasing the school sites.

Ibid. 28. That power should be granted to the Board of the Society to alter, from time to time, the localities of schools, for the support or assistance of which funds have been intrusted to the Society, provided that for each of such changes the consent of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council be first obtained.

Ibid. 29. That the Society should be enabled to sell, with a Parliamentary title, the small estates which it holds in different parts of the country, the adjoining

proprietors being first offered the option of purchasing—the money arising from such sale to be held in trust to be re-invested in the purchase of other land.

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS.

30. That the Celbridge Institution should be converted into a training establishment for schoolmistresses. *Vide* p. 93, *supra*. Ibid. p. 238.

31. That good maps should be made of all the properties of the Incorporated Society, the Ordnance Survey and the Tenement Valuation affording the means of having such prepared at a moderate expense.

32. That a tenantry school should be established on the townland of Rooskagh, forming part of the Ranelagh school estate. Ibid.

Exclusive Schools and Endowments of Private Foundation, under the Commissioners of Education.

We are of opinion—

33. That schools for the exclusive education of members of the United Church, now under the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, should be transferred to the Incorporated Society, so as to be under that Society to the same extent and in the same manner as they are now under the Commissioners of Education. Ibid. pp. 99, 246.

34. That the holdings out of lease on the Clonmel school estate should be re-valued at a moderate rate, not charging for any improvements recently made, and that the tenants should be called on to pay according to such valuation. Ibid. p. 236.

35. That the purposes of the founder of the Preston charity would be best accomplished by uniting the two endowments of Navan and Ballyroan, and establishing one efficient school at Maryborough, which is the nearest large town to the estate. Ibid. pp. 108, 121.

Exclusive Schools formerly Endowed by means of Parliamentary Grants.

We are of opinion—

36. That power should be given by Statute to the Association for Discountenancing Vice, and persons holding property in trust for them, to transfer to any trustee or trustees approved of by the bishop of the diocese in which the endowment is situate, all their authority or interest in any exclusive endowment connected with the United Church. Ibid. p. 103.

37. That power should be given by Statute to the Kildare-place Society, and to trustees for them, to transfer to any trustee or trustees approved of by the bishop of the diocese in which the endowment is situate, all their authority or interest in any exclusive endowment connected with the United Church. Ibid. p. 127.

V.

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN GROUPS OF SCHOOLS EXISTING IN PARTICULAR LOCALITIES.

Schools of the Honorable the Irish Society.

We are of opinion—

1. That immediate steps should be taken in order that all the funds devoted to education under the Charter of the Irish Society should assume a definite form, and be placed under a system of efficient management; and with this view, that the scattered funds of the Society should be secured for, and concentrated on, a limited number of Endowed Schools, on this foundation, in the county of Londonderry. Ibid. p. 166.

2. That, in the event of the recommendation of the Commissioners on the Corporation of London being carried into effect, and the Irish Society dissolved, the townlands of Rossnagallagh and Gransha should be set apart for a Royal Free School for the county of Londonderry. Ibid. p. 60.

3. That in case the Society shall not appoint local patrons and managers, and put their primary schools under the proposed Board of Endowed Schools, or under the Board of National Education, a Local Board ought to be established in the county, which should have the management of the schools supported from such funds of the Society as may be allocated to educational purposes. Ibid. p. 167.

Colonel Robertson's Schools, County of Donegal.

We are of opinion—

4. That the management of the endowment should be transferred from the Ibid. p. 169.

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS.

Robertson Committee to the care of the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

Vide p. 169, *supra*.

5. That power should be given to withhold payment of any portion of the Robertson endowment in parishes where a certain amount of local support is unprovided; and that the shares of the income so withheld should be allowed to accumulate, until they become sufficiently large to support efficient schools in their respective parishes.

VI.

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO SCHOOLS AND ENDOWMENTS PLACED UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF LOCAL TRUSTEES OR SPECIAL GOVERNORS.

Parochial Schools in the City of Dublin.

We are of opinion—

Ibid. pp. 176.

1. That the power for the trustees to sell trust funds invested in stock should exist, but ought to be placed under restrictions calculated to insure its prudent exercise; and that, with this view, the trust funds of the parochial schools in Dublin should be invested in the name of the Incorporated Society, jointly with the local trustees; by which means the latter would be able to draw the dividends, but could not sell the principal without the consent of the Society.

Ibid. p. 175.

2. That the trustees of parochial boarding schools in Dublin should be enabled to convert them into day schools, so, however, as not to apply the funds in relieving the wealthier classes from the support of such schools, but preserving the entire of the funds for boarding, and applying them on the plan of the Protestant Orphan Society, in placing the children entitled to the benefit of them in families of their own religious persuasion, residing in localities where they can attend day schools approved of by their parents or guardians, and also enjoy the spiritual instruction and care of the clergy of the same denomination.

Other Schools in the City of Dublin.

We are of opinion—

Ibid. p. 190.

3. That it is undesirable to have any portion of the endowments of schools invested in the shares or stock of commercial or banking companies, and that the trustees of the Female Orphan House, the Bethesda Orphan Girls' School, the Protestant Orphan Society, the Essex-street (East) School, and the Hibernian Marine School, should direct their attention to this subject.

Ibid. p. 173.

4. That the Protestant Orphan Society should take into consideration the propriety of applying the funds now employed in maintaining their boarding school, Percy-place, wholly or in part, towards the further extension of their system of boarding in families; and, in case they determine on continuing their boarding establishment, that they should endeavour to improve the condition of the premises and house accommodation.

Ibid. pp. 151–3, 164, 232–3, 239.

5. That the course of instruction in the Blue Coat Hospital should be extended, so as to embrace navigation, drawing, experimental science, French, German, and book-keeping; that the charges of the establishment should be diminished, and that the educational staff, as well as the number of boys maintained on the charity, should be increased; that the Governors should be authorized to allow maintenance in the form of scholarships to boys residing outside the hospital; that the school should be opened to a large number of day scholars, properly selected; that provision should be made for the admission of pupil-teachers, in order that the school may, to some extent, serve as a training school for masters; and lastly, that the audit of the accounts should be transferred from the Board of Audit in London to the Board of Audit proposed to be established in Dublin.

Ibid. p. 172.

6. That the school premises of the National Schools, Essex-street, West, should be put into a proper state of repair.

Ibid.

7. That the local patron of the National Boys' School, Meath-street, should endeavour to separate the school endowment from funds devoted to other [illegible]s, which are at present mixed with the former.

Ibid.

[illegible] school accommodation, and a larger supply of school requisites, [illegible]ed for the National Ragged Schools, West Park-street.

9. That the Trustees of the Presbyterian Boys' School, Upper Ormond-quay, should endeavour to provide school premises of a better and more healthy character.

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS.

Vide p. 173, *supra*.

Schools and Endowments in Ireland generally, under the management of local Trustees or special Governors.

We are of opinion—

10. That the management of the Clongesh School, county of Longford, and the Ballintoy School, county of Antrim, should be transferred to the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools. Ibid. pp. 144, 164, 180.

11. That the Commissioners of Education should institute inquiries respecting the Callan and Knocktopher schools, in the county of Kilkenny, with a view to ascertain whether the trustees are not legally responsible for the losses that have occurred in relation to these endowments. Ibid. p. 181.

12. That the munificent sum raised in Belfast by private exertion, and expended in founding the Royal Academical Institution, should be considered as a local contribution, giving the town a claim to a liberal grant of public money in any plan for the promotion of intermediate education. Ibid. p. 140.

13. That Bishop Foy's School should be transferred from the neighbourhood of the city of Waterford to the city itself, and converted into a day school, with scholarships for orphans and poor children; and that the Acts of Parliament by which the school is governed should be repealed, and the entire management of the school transferred to the Incorporated Society with power to effect the above changes in the constitution of the school. Ibid. p. 163.

14. That good maps should be provided, and a regular valuation made of the property attached to Bishop Foy's School; that the tenants upon it should be encouraged and assisted to provide better houses; and that the portion of the arrears of rent which are of long standing should be cleared off by forgiving part and requiring the tenants to execute improvements in discharge of the residue. Ibid. p. 239.

15. That with respect to the Limerick Charity Blue School, steps should be taken to have two inhabitants of Limerick, from time to time appointed as trustees in place of the Mayor and Recorder, who have ceased to act. Ibid. p. 155.

16. That the trustees of the Hevey Endowment should endeavour to secure the benefit of the provisions of the 18th and 19th Vic., c. 39, s. vi., in relation to the site of the intended seminary, and that of the Presentation Convent National School. Ibid. pp. 159, 187.

17. That steps should be taken with reference to the Rahaghy school, county of Tyrone, to ascertain the site originally granted, and to have it marked out with boundaries distinguishing it from the surrounding land. Ibid. p. 188.

18. That Swords Borough School has not been managed with a due regard to the feelings and circumstances of the persons interested in it; that we cannot express our approval of the manner in which the duties of local superintendence have been performed; that the benefits of the charity being intended to be conferred without religious distinction, the charity ought not to be intrusted to the administration of an exclusive Board, especially one on which the most numerous class of the inhabitants are entirely unrepresented; that the statuable provisions constituting the Board of Governors of Swords Borough School should be repealed, and the charter rescinded, and that the funds and management of the charity should be transferred to the proposed Board of Commissioners of Endowed Schools. Ibid. p. 161–2, 165.

19. That the trustees of the estates of Wilson's Hospital and Morgan's Schools should require the agent to bring down his accounts so as to show the balance due on foot both of receipts and expenditure, on the last day up to which the account is rendered; that in addition to rendering his annual account the agent's cash account should be balanced monthly and laid before the trustees, together with the former; and that the audit of accounts should be conducted by the proposed Board of Audit. Ibid. pp. 231–2, 238.

20. That the original scheme of the Castlederg Boys' School, county of Tyrone, should be varied as regards apprenticing to trades and the boarding department; that the girls' school should be discontinued, and the entire funds applied to the support of a boys' school; and that the equitable jurisdiction before recommended to be conferred on the Assistant Barrister might be advantageously applied for the purpose of sanctioning the above alterations. Ibid. pp. 182, 271. Ibid. No. 54, p. 271.

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS.

Ibid. No. 56, p. 272.

21. That the recommendation we have already made with reference to cases where the public money has been expended on the faith of promises to grant sites, has an especial application to the Cahirconlish Girls', the Kilfinane Parochial, the Kishequirk National Boys', and the Lisnagry National Girls' Schools, all situate in the county of Limerick.

Ibid. p. 187.

Ibid. No. 54, p. 271.

22. That the exercise of the equitable jurisdiction which we have recommended should be conferred on the Assistant Barrister in relation to small endowments, might be beneficially employed for the appointment of new trustees for the Moate Boys' School, county of Fermanagh.

Ibid. p. 186.

Ibid. No. 4, p. 267.

23. That the measure which we have recommended for authorizing trustees to apply the endowments of charity boarding schools to a system of boarding in families would be very beneficial in relation to Rainey's Charity School, county of Londonderry.

All which we humbly submit for your Majesty's gracious consideration,

Witness our hands and seals, this First day of February, 1858.

KILDARE. (L.S)
CHARLES GRAVES. (L.S.)
ROBERT ANDREWS. (L.S.)

W. NEILSON HANCOCK,
Secretary.

I dissent from this Report.

ARCHIBALD JOHN STEPHENS.

LETTER FROM HENRY GEORGE HUGHES, ESQ., Q.C., TO THE MARQUESS OF KILDARE, REV. CHARLES GRAVES, D.D., AND ROBERT ANDREWS, ESQ., LL.D., Q.C.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have read with great interest and the utmost attention, the Draft of the Report which you propose to submit to Her Majesty.

We all concurred in opinion, that the demand, in Ireland, for "intermediate" education is considerable. I believe that it is not only considerable, but that the demand is rapidly increasing, while the means of supplying it are diminishing, and it is therefore of the most serious importance to the State to devise and carry out a system which will provide for that increasing demand.

The adoption, by the State, of the most correct theory on the subject of education, if unsuited to the condition of the country in which it is to be applied, will have the effect of postponing the education of the classes it is intended to promote. The mere effort to carry out a system that is opposed to the religious convictions of a people, increases the difficulty of providing for their education; and it is therefore, I believe, essential, that any theory the Commissioners propose should not only be right in principle, but suited to the condition of society in Ireland.

Vide p. 21, *supra.*

In the Draft Report you state your "belief in the possibility of separating the courses of secular and religious instruction, so far as to enable scholars of different religious denominations to receive instruction of the former kind in the same school without compromise of opinions, or risk of offence;" and you then proceed to suggest the means of carrying out a system of "intermediate" education on that principle, "by the union of local funds, under the management of local trustees, with grants of public money."

Vide p. 223, *supra.*

LETTER FROM H.G.HUGHES, Esq., Q.C., TO THE MARQUESS OF KILDARE, &c., &c.

I cannot concur in a Report which proposes to establish a system which I believe to be wrong in principle, and impossible in practice; and it is therefore right that I should state the reasons which induced me to oppose the adoption of the principle of "mixed" education, and which now induce me to decline to concur in your proposed Report.

It will be admitted, I believe, that education must be conducted either on the "mixed" system, or on the "separate" system. That is, the system must be, either for the united education of persons of different religious denominations, in respect of secular instruction, or for the separate education of the members of each religious persuasion.

I believe that religious instruction should form a portion of every system of education. I am persuaded that the religious belief of the teacher must, of necessity, and, perhaps, even unconsciously, influence the mind of the pupil, and that the wiser and the better the teacher is, the more dangerous is that influence to the faith of the pupil who differs from him in religion.

The Legislature has imposed on some of the officials of this country an oath, in which they declare that they believe the religion of the Church of Rome to be "idolatrous." It is not unreasonable to expect that the religious instructor of a Government school would teach his Protestant pupils to believe in the truth of that declaration. On the other hand, Roman Catholic divines have pronounced the Protestant religion to be "heretical." A Roman Catholic religious instructor would be unwilling to dispute the soundness of that doctrine. You now propose that pupils thus instructed shall receive their "secular" education from a teacher whose religious faith is liable to be thus impeached or denounced. The pupils find their secular teacher a wise man, and they believe him to be a good man; they remain under his tuition, and subject to his influence for many hours daily. Their religious instruction occupies but a small portion of the week's work. The secular teacher is constantly before them; the religious teacher seldom. Is it safe to leave the mind of the pupil to waver between the wisdom and virtue of the secular teacher, and the doctrines of the religious teacher? I fear that under such circumstances the pupil would, in a short time, regard his secular teacher with a deference involving the sacrifice of faith or an approach to indifferentism. I have, therefore, come to the conclusion that the teacher and the pupil should be of the same religious persuasion.

In your Draft Report you state—"That much may be done by competent teachers towards imbuing the youth of both sexes with a high sense of moral and religious responsibility, and inspiring them with an elevated tone of feeling and character." "To do this," you say, "in the daily course of secular instruction, requires qualities which are not easily met with; and this consideration gives additional weight to the view we have already insisted on, as to the great moment of securing the services of teachers superior by nature as well as in point of acquirement." *Vide* p. 215, *supra*.

I heartily concur in these opinions, but what is to become of the faith of a child who is placed under the tuition of a teacher of a different religion, who is "superior by nature, as well as in point of acquirement," and who "does much" in the course of secular instruction, "towards imbuing the youth with a high sense of moral and religious responsibility"? If the child respect and trust his teacher, he may adopt his views of religious responsibility, and the faith of the child would thus become shaken or altered. I have, therefore, come to the conclusion that it is dangerous to separate "religious" from "secular" instruction.

But even if the "mixed" system were right and sound in principle, I believe that it is incapable of being carried out in Ireland. It is admitted that the education of the middle classes, or, as it is called, "intermediate education," ought not to be effected altogether at the expense of the State. It is felt that the middle classes should be made to contribute to the expense of the education of their children, either by donation or by local assessment. I think it is manifest that voluntary contributions, either by temporary or permanent endowment, would not supply the requisite funds. It would, therefore, be necessary to have recourse to an educational assessment to be enforced in the localities that would receive Government assistance. If, then, in the north of Ireland, the majority of the inhabitants of a district shall receive from the Government a grant for "mixed" education, on the terms of providing a local assessment, the Roman Catholics of the district will be compelled to contribute to the sustainment of schools from which they will be practically excluded. What I have said of

LETTER FROM H.G.HUGHES, Esq., Q.C., TO THE MARQUESS OF KILDARE, &c., &c.

Roman Catholics in the north of Ireland is equally true of Protestants and Presbyterians in the south and west of Ireland, if they shall be opposed to education on the "mixed" system. Of course, Protestants and Presbyterians will determine for themselves whether they will adopt or repudiate the system of "mixed" education. But the most authentic documents prove that it would receive the determined opposition of the Roman Catholic Bishops. I cannot believe that a new tax, involving questions of religious feeling and distinction, could now be enforced in Ireland. "Tithes" have been reduced, and "Ministers' Money" has been abolished, in consequence of the resistance to the collection of these ancient imposts, and it would involve this country once more in rancorous agitation, if a new assessment were imposed in aid of a system of education from which Roman Catholics would be practically excluded. I, therefore, assert that the "mixed" system, if requiring the aid of local assessments, would be impossible.

Comrs. of Educ. Rep. 1812, p. 341.

In the year 1811, Mr. Leslie Foster, then a member of the Board of Education, addressed a letter to the secretary of the Board, in which he stated, "That whatever plan may appear to this Board most eligible, it should be laid before the heads of the Roman Catholic clergy previous to our Report." "No person," he adds, "acquainted with the discipline of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland can doubt, that on the sentiments of the bishops will depend the degree of resistance or co-operation which such a plan would receive from the subordinates of their religion." I believe that the same discipline still exists, and that the same results would inevitably follow. The sentiments of the Roman Catholic Bishops on the subject of 'mixed' education are beyond doubt. The documents which I laid before the Commissioners, and some of which accompany your Report, demonstrate that the Roman Catholic Bishops of Ireland disapprove of and condemn the system of "mixed" education. Their views on that subject are not peculiar either to their order or to their religion. Similar views have been entertained by the most eminent divines of the Protestant Church*, and have been advocated by the most distinguished statesmen in the British Senate†.

Doc. Ev. vol. ii. pp. 380–9.

I am, therefore, of opinion, that under these circumstances, the "mixed" system you propose cannot be made to provide for the education of the Roman Catholics. If it does not include them in its arrangements, then it only provides for the education of the fewer and the richer, at the expense of the many and the poorer. It not only endows the fewer and the richer, but it contemplates that a portion of that endowment shall be levied from the funds of the excluded and the poor.

If, then, the "mixed" system will not be adopted by the Roman Catholics, why not apply the "separate" system? The latter principle is that carried out in England under the Privy Council, and it cannot be said that it would not succeed in Ireland, because it has been tried here and has succeeded. The existing schools in Ireland that have received the highest commendations of the Commissioners are those of an essentially "separate" and exclusive character. They are the schools of the Christian Brothers‡, the schools of the Incorporated Society§, and the schools of the Society of Friends‖. In these schools the managers, teachers, and pupils are of the same religious persuasion. In these institutions religious instruction is not only incorporated with secular instruction, but the latter is made subservient to the former, and it has been ascertained that in these "separate" schools larger numbers receive a better education, at less expense, than the pupils of any other schools that came within the scope of our Commission.

I am convinced that the "mixed" system is wrong in principle, and cannot, even if right, be carried out in Ireland. I believe that the separate system is

* The late Archbishop of Canterbury, 3rd May, 1839, Hansard, 3rd Series, vol. 47, page 764; 5th July, 1839, ibid, vol. 48, page 1248. The late Bishop of London, 10th June, 1839, Hansard, 3rd Series, vol. 48, page 91.

† Lord Derby, 14th June, 1839, Hansard, 3rd Series, vol. 48, pages 229–230. Lord John Manners, Hansard, 3rd Series, vol. 80, pages 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140. Lord John Russell, Speech at Sheffield, 25th September, 1857, Reported, *Times*, 26th September, 1857. The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Hansard, vol. 80, page 1261. Lord Dunraven, Hansard, vol. 80, page 1143.

‡ *Vide* p. 132, 199, 207, 213, 214, 216, *supra*.

§ *Vide* p. 97, 98, 99, *supra*.

‖ *Vide*, 140–1–2 *supra*.

sound in principle, and if that is doubted, I think it is worthy of being submitted to a fair trial, as the only alternative the State can adopt, if it proposes to legislate for the education of the middle classes.

LETTER FROM H.G. HUGHES, Esq., Q.C., TO THE MARQUESS OF KILDARE, &c., &c.

I have the honour to remain,
My Lord and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

(Signed) HENRY GEORGE HUGHES.

29th January, 1858.

Endowed Schools' Office, Dublin Castle,
1st February, 1858.

SPECIAL REPORT AS TO SERVICES OF OFFICERS OF COMMISSION.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

Having completed the investigation which your Majesty commanded us to institute, we desire to acknowledge, in the strongest terms, the efficiency of the various officers who have aided us in executing our Commission.

For the three years, during which our labours have been carried on, we have received the most valuable assistance from our Secretary, William Neilson Hancock, LL.D. Acting under our directions, with exemplary diligence, ability, and uprightness, he has conducted the whole of our extensive correspondence, and accurately digested the great mass of information collected in the course of our inquiries. He has also rendered important services in the preparation of the foregoing Report.

We are likewise bound to acknowledge the zeal and ability with which the Assistant Commissioners, the Inspector of Estates, and the Government Accountant, have discharged the laborious offices committed to them by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Their minute examination into the state of schools and endowments has enabled us to construct the elaborate Tables annexed to this Report.

The faithful services of the Assistant Secretaries entitle them to the warm expression of our approval.

The Shorthand-writers, the Chief Clerk, and the other Clerks employed in our office, have performed their several duties to our entire satisfaction.

KILDARE.
CHARLES GRAVES.
ROBERT ANDREWS.
HENRY GEORGE HUGHES.
ARCHIBALD JOHN STEPHENS.

APPENDIX TO REPORT.

REPORTS of ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS with respect to SPECIAL CLASSES of SCHOOLS, and GENERAL CAUSES of EFFICIENCY and INEFFICIENCY.

Reports of Assistant Commissioners.

Arthur Sharman Crawford, Esq.

A. S. Crawford, Esq.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., requesting me to transmit to the Commissioners a report of the general impressions, with respect to Endowed Schools, produced on my mind in the transaction of my business as Assistant Commissioner; particularly with regard to special classes of schools, and general causes of efficiency and inefficiency.

In compliance with that request, I submit the following observations:—

The schools which have been the subject of my inquiry, whilst acting as Assistant Commissioner, may be ranked under the following general classes:—

1st. Diocesan Schools, established under Act 12th Eliz., c. 1.
2ndly. Royal Schools, founded by King Charles the First.
3rdly. Schools on the foundation of Erasmus Smith, Esq.
4thly. Schools under the Incorporated Society.
5thly. Schools on private foundation, over which the Commissioners of Education exercise a nominal control (not being Diocesan or Royal).
6thly. All other schools, on private foundations.

Before referring to each of these classes specifically, I desire to state some general principles, the observance or non-observance of which operates to cause the efficiency or non-efficiency of schools, according to the impressions made upon me by particular instances.

First—The success of any school, endowed or non-endowed, depends mainly on the master, or head, being well qualified for his duties in all the departments of the school; and, therefore, the first essential is, that proper means should be taken to ascertain the qualifications of candidates, in the first instance; and I am very strongly of opinion that such qualifications cannot be ascertained by a mere examination as to literary or scientific acquirements. The conductor or chief manager of a school should have many other qualifications, which can only be tested by practice, and acquired by experience; and, for this reason, it occurs to me that a system of promotion from inferior to superior endowments, and, also, from assistants to principals, for merit, should be adopted in any general plan for regulating permanent endowments for education.

But it seems to me to be not less important to the success and efficiency of a school having a permanent endowment, that a power should be vested in some person or body to remove a master who might be originally well qualified, but who, from the effects of age, or mental or physical infirmities, has ceased to possess his original qualifications. In such a case, the school naturally dwindles to small dimensions, and often ceases to be operative at all. Its reputation or prestige is gone; and a new master has to undergo the tedious and uphill drudgery of re-establishing it.

It is probable that a power of this kind must be accompanied by a system of superannuation, which can only co-exist with endowments of considerable value. I do not pretend to suggest how the scheme I propose can be carried out, but I feel strongly its necessity.

The Act 53rd Geo. III., cap. 107, gives to the Commissioners of Education powers of deprivation for misconduct, but seems to provide for no other case; and even if it did, it would be found practically inoperative without a power of superannuation from the funds of the school.

Secondly—As incidental to the first proposition, there should be a frequent unexpected inspection of schools, by persons independent of local connexions; with a view to ascertain, at the earliest possible period, whether a master is discharging, or qualified to discharge, his duties properly; and to hear complaints, if any exist.

The powers of inspection vested in the Commissioners of Education, by the above Act, and the amending one, 3rd Geo. IV., cap. 79, are large, but seem practically inoperative.

Thirdly—Although a master may not become disqualified from any of the causes mentioned in my first proposition, he may cease to be efficient from a lack of zeal, loss of energy, or from an indolent disposition, and from the value of the endowment or from private means in addition to it, having a competence according to his tastes, without the drudgery of conducting a school.

The only effectual way of providing for this contingency which I can suggest (for it is difficult to prove that the inefficiency of a school arises from any of these causes, so as to make out a case for deprivation), would be, to make the emolument received from the endowment proportionable, to some extent, to the number of the pupils, and the success of the instruction given in the school, as evidenced by the subsequent career of the pupils.

There should also be a rule, that a master should not have any other occupation, or means of livelihood, which can in any way interfere with his duties as master; and should

not farm any land, beyond a certain number of acres which may be necessary for the absolute comfort of his establishment.

Fourthly—The success of a school very much depends on its locality; and the relative advantages of localities for schools, as well as for other establishments, will, in the course of time, be frequently found to change. Nothing has had a greater operation, in this respect, than the introduction of the railway system, which, unlike the old public highways, not being universally diffused over every part of the country, has given particular localities advantages over others which they did not formerly possess. It seems to me, therefore, that it would be desirable that there should be vested in some body the power to change the locality of an Endowed School, within certain limits. Without such a power, the endowment will become, in some instances, perfectly useless.

Fifthly—In order to make an educational endowment efficient in its operations, the principles on which it is administered should be consonant with the prevailing feelings of, and adapted to the wants of, the community within the sphere of its operations. This principle applies more to schools for day pupils than to boarding establishments.

I shall now, as briefly as possible, state how far these propositions are illustrated in reference to the several respective classes into which, at the commencement of these observations, I have divided educational endowments which came under my notice. It is impossible for me to do more than to select one or two illustrations in each class.

FIRST—AS to DIOCESAN SCHOOLS.

I visited four of these—viz., Cork, Ross, Ferns, and Limerick. The endowments of the three first-named are not considerable. To two of them alone—viz., Ferns and Limerick—is a schoolhouse permanently attached; and the bad state of repair of Ferns—sufficient to cause danger to the inmates—suggests that, as Grand Juries refuse to present for repairs, if these schools to which houses are annexed as part of the endowment are to be maintained, there should be some power of charging the endowment with the cost of necessary reparation. These three schools are in a fair state of efficiency, but do not, in any way, answer the description of free schools, as they are characterized in the Statute under which they have been founded.

The Limerick School, however, affords a striking illustration of the propriety of my three first propositions. In its present condition, a very handsome endowment is nearly, if not altogether, worthless for effecting the objects intended by its establishment. Whatever might have been his original qualifications—and I believe they were fair—the master has become, from infirmity, unfitted for his position; and yet it might be impossible to establish such a case as would subject him to deprivation by virtue of the powers vested in the Commissioners of Education.

SECONDLY—AS to ROYAL SCHOOLS.

I visited one of these, only—viz., Dungannon. I found here an efficient master, and, consequently, an efficient school; but it is evident that, from various causes, such as impaired vigour of mind or body, the attainment of a competency by which one stimulant to exertion may cease to operate, or such like causes, the original efficiency may terminate. Such a case did occur in reference to this very school of Dungannon, and proves the propriety of the application of my three first propositions to these schools. Like the Diocesan Schools, they seem to have been intended, to some extent, as free schools; but no power of nominating free pupils seems to have been vested in any person or body in particular by the charter under which they were established, or by any contract with the master in his appointment. The present head master of Dungannon School claims the right to decline having any free pupils; but he has admitted about thirteen (at present in the school) at his own discretion, and states that he has never refused to receive any, except on the ground of badness of character or like reasons.

THIRDLY—SCHOOLS on FOUNDATION of ERASMUS SMITH.

There are two divisions of this class—viz., Grammar Schools and English Day Schools.

I visited two in the first division—viz., Tipperary and Ennis. The former is in an unsatisfactory condition, and the latter is efficiently conducted. As they are under the same government, and, at least so far as they are boarding establishments, not very different in their relative advantages (and perhaps if there is any difference in this respect it is in favour of Tipperary), I can attribute the difference in their condition only to a corresponding difference in the capability of the respective masters. Although a very large sum of money has been expended in erecting a most commodious house at Tipperary for the reception of boarders, there is not one in the establishment, and the day school is of an inferior kind. I am not able to state whether the present master was originally well qualified for his office, or if so, the cause of the present state of the school; but I entertain no doubt that if some such principle as I have suggested in my third proposition had been acted on, an improvement would have taken place in this school. The masters of these schools are left almost perfectly uncontrolled by the Governors of Erasmus Smith's charity. The schools are never inspected—the terms for pupils undefined—course of education not prescribed—and there is nothing to distinguish these schools from other private schools, except that the receipt of a considerable salary, and the use of large and commodious

houses and grounds, give to the masters such advantages over private teachers as should put down all competition. So far as my observations extend, these advantages enable the masters to pay less attention to the reasonable desires and wishes of the parents of the pupils, in respect of vacations and similar arrangements in relation to the school, than private teachers could dare to do.

The second division of this class of schools is a very large one. English Day Schools on the foundation of Erasmus Smith are to be found in all parts of Ireland—some of them are efficient, some very much the contrary. It seems to me that there is not that frequent inspection which is essential to the success of this class of schools. There is only one in the year, and that at or about a fixed time; and I have reason to believe that the Inspector does not see a school in its ordinary every-day character. The salaries are also too low to attract the most efficient teachers; and I found, as a general rule, having but few exceptions, that wherever a school was maintained in part by this charity, local contributions to the school were inconsiderable, and sometimes non-existent. In many cases the parochial clergy, who made use of the school as their Parochial School, did not add any thing to the salary of the master; and thus the objects of the charity of Erasmus Smith seemed to be, in practice, the neighbouring proprietors of land and the parochial clergy. I would suggest that no grant should be made by the Governors for salary of a master, unless it was of itself sufficient to secure the services of a good one, or a sufficient addition to the sum granted was guaranteed.

The inefficiency of some of these schools arises from their locality. The masters of these schools are required to be of the Established Church, and all the pupils are required to read, in school-hours, the Holy Scriptures. In many of the places where these schools exist in the South of Ireland, the population of the district is, in a large degree, Roman Catholic; and schools in which the teachers are exclusively Protestant, and in which the Holy Scriptures are read under such teachers, are regarded with suspicion by the Roman Catholic clergy, who generally exercise their influence to keep the children of their flocks, who are more than infants, from attending the school. The effect of this has been, in several cases, that after a large expenditure in erecting and establishing the school, the Governors have been obliged to abandon the school, and the value of the house, to the landlords.

To these schools I think my first, second, fourth, and fifth propositions apply. As to the third, it may be observed that there is a part of the salary paid to teachers, not fixed, but dependent on the report of the Inspector. It is called a gratuity; but, I believe, never exceeds in amount £5; and is seldom withheld.

FOURTHLY—As to SCHOOLS under INCORPORATED SOCIETY.

The only division of these schools which came under my notice were English Day Schools, and I believe, with one exception, I reported unfavourably of them. Many of the observations I have made in reference to the second division of schools on the foundation of Erasmus Smith, apply to these schools, and I shall not repeat them. They are principally those which have reference to salary and locality, and the requirements as to the religion of the master, and the reading of the Scriptures. But, in addition, I would observe as to these schools, that I believe I did not find a single case in which the Society had ascertained, by a special examination, the qualifications of the master, or had required any course of training. The inspections are annual, but several months' notice is given beforehand; and during this period the attention of the master is principally directed to the preparation of a few of the cleverest of the pupils for an examination for what are called exhibitions, or scholarships, in the boarding-schools of the Society, to the neglect of all the others who, from age or want of intelligence, are not qualified to compete at the examinations. The master is generally presented with a gratuity for good answering for scholarships.

It appears to me that the entire of my five preliminary observations apply to these schools.

FIFTHLY—PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS over which the Commissioners of Education exercise a nominal control, (not being Diocesan or Royal Schools).

The only distinction, practically, between these schools and private schools is the enjoyment by the masters of the endowment permanently attached to the school, and the amount of which is independent of the usefulness of the school. I do not find that the Commissioners of Education ever actively interfere with the management of the schools. The efficiency of these schools depends, in a great degree, on the efficiency or the inefficiency of the master, and the locality of the school. The appointment of the masters is generally vested in private persons; and, unless that power is interfered with or controlled, I see no hope that any great improvement can take place in this class of schools. The Commissioners of Education have a power of deprivation for misconduct; but this would not meet the case of such a school as Lismore Endowed School, where there is not a single pupil, and yet no positive misconduct or incompetency could be proved against the master. I believe that what in his case is wanted is such a stimulant to exertion as the danger of being deprived of any part of his endowment would be.

The circumstances of Clonmel Endowed School will be found detailed in my report on it. It is in an unsatisfactory state, into which the Commissioners of Education did institute an inquiry, but, it would appear, without result. The circumstances of the master, which preclude him from going out of the precincts of the school, except on Sundays, prevent any hope that the school can ever, during his incumbency, be restored to efficiency;

but he is in receipt of a handsome salary. In the meantime, the benefit of a large expenditure in erecting a house which is almost useless, is lost, and the character of the school damaged. I would apply to these schools all the propositions which I have laid down.

SIXTHLY—All other SCHOOLS on PRIVATE FOUNDATION.

It would be impossible, within any ordinary limits, to offer suggestions as to the cause of the efficiency or inefficiency of these schools, they are so various in their circumstances. This class comprises Parochial Schools, National Schools, Convent Schools, Monastery Schools, Church Education Society Schools, and many others. They are efficient, according to the efficiency of the teachers. The most efficient, in my opinion, are the schools managed by the community of Christian Brothers; and I attribute this efficiency to the excellence of their system, the training of the teachers, and their zeal in the cause of education.

The National Schools are, for the most part, efficient, owing to the constant inspection they undergo, the training and selection of the teachers, and the excellence of the books, supplied at cheap rates; many of them, however, are inefficient, from the impossibility of getting rid, without some hardship to the individual, of an old master, whose school had been lately placed in connexion with the Board. This cause of inefficiency will gradually diminish.

The Parochial Schools are, as a class, not good. The principal causes are the want of means to pay a sufficient salary to the master—of a sufficiently frequent inspection—and from the necessity, from the first cause, of combining the office of schoolmaster with that of parish clerk. Instances came under my notice in which the inefficiency of the master was admitted; but being also parish clerk, which is a freehold office, the dismissal of the schoolmaster would have deprived the school of its principal source of support.

The inefficiency of several schools which I visited, I attribute to their being under the exclusive management of trustees, who are such only by virtue of official positions. Such persons have, in general, either not sufficient leisure from their other avocations to make frequent visitations and inspections of the school, or have not the tastes which are suitable for the office, or are not constantly resident in the locality. In some instances, I found, that having different views on education, these official trustees could not agree on the system of management to be pursued; and, as in these cases, the number of trustees is generally small, the management of, and control over the school, became practically vested in one person only, who was frequently absent, or could not devote sufficient time to an efficient superintendence. It appears to me, that with official trustees should be associated some other persons, who, by constant residence in the locality, position in society, and possession of an interest in the advancement of education, would be enabled and inclined to devote some time to superintend the management of the school.

At the same time, my observations led me to come to the conclusion, that it is not desirable that the number of trustees or managers should be large; where such was the case, I generally found that, each individual relying on the attendance of others, there was a difficulty in obtaining a sufficient attendance to constitute a quorum, in order to transact the more important business of the trust, requiring the presence of a certain number.

Before concluding, I desire to call attention to one class of schools to which I have not particularly referred before, viz., to those which have been established under the decree, and are regulated according to a scheme of the Court of Chancery. They are generally under the control of local trustees. In some cases the schools are efficient, in other cases the opposite; but it struck me that there should be some other tribunal which, after the establishment, should have the supreme control over the schools. In case of complaints against the administration of the trust, there is no other remedy than the expensive one of an application to the Court, at the risk of the complainant being mulcted in costs if the complaint should not be formally established according to very strict rules. I need hardly say, that, except in a very gross case, and where some personal interest is involved, few persons will be found who will be bold enough to undertake the risk, and the abuse is probably perpetuated.

According to the schemes of Court, under which some of these schools are managed, the trustees are bound to account annually before a master of the Court; the cost of doing so is very considerable, combined with the incidental costs of obtaining the necessary order for payment of the funds out of Court, and for any small variances in the application of the funds, which, from time to time, by a change of circumstances, may be advisable. In the case of the Villier's Schools, at Limerick, the annual law costs are ordinarily from £30 to £40.

It appears to me that such duties, as hearing complaints against the trustees and auditing the accounts, should be vested in some less expensive court or board than the Court of Chancery.

The foregoing observations, made in compliance with the desire of the Commissioners, I respectfully submit to their consideration, and,

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. SHARMAN CRAWFORD,
Assistant Commissioner.

W. N. Hancock, Esq., LL.D., Secretary to
the Commission of Inquiry into Endowed Schools.

George Whitley Abraham, Esq.

27, Upper Rutland-street, December 14, 1856.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd inst., directing me, on the part of Her Majesty's Commissioners for inquiring into Endowed Schools in Ireland, to furnish a report of my impressions with respect to Endowed Schools generally, distinguishing them where possible into classes, and assigning such causes of efficiency or inefficiency as should have occurred to my judgment.

Agreeably to these directions, I am now to make the following statement of my impressions, formed or modified from time to time in the course of my inquiries.

I divide the Endowed Schools into four classes, viz.:—

I. Classical or Grammar Schools.
II. National Schools.
III. Charter Schools.
IV. Parochial or Church Education Society Schools.

I.—CLASSICAL OR GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

I subdivide the first class into—

1. Royal Schools.
2. Diocesan Schools.
3. Schools of private foundation.

1.—*Royal Schools.*

Of these I had occasion to visit only two, viz., the Banagher and Cavan Schools. I believe they are not fair samples of Royal Schools; but, although they are affected by *local* disadvantages, many of their deficiencies will, I think, be found to range under those common to the entire class, or at least to schools in connexion with the Clare-street Board.

The schools in question suffer from the want of inspection and supervision. I cannot find that the Board interferes at all in the management of its schools, or takes any notice of their discipline or course of studies. It is steward and paymaster, but nothing more. The schools are, to all intents, private speculations, and the master a private teacher, with a bounty, but by no means the officer of a public board.

I think I am bound to state here a matter of very general complaint against the Commissioners of Education, Clare-street, as well as against the Governors of the Erasmus Smith Schools. It is found extremely difficult to bring the members of these Boards together for the despatch of business. Notwithstanding, as I am informed, the strenuous exertions of the Registrar of the latter Board, intervals of as many as six months are suffered to elapse between the days of meeting. The accumulation of letters, memorials, and routine work to be gotten through at these rare and occasional meetings, is quite sufficient to absorb the labour of the day; and projects of reform or improvement, which require consideration and discussion, are either never started or indefinitely adjourned. I do not know that individual Commissioners or Governors are much to blame in the matter. They are usually judges, bishops, or other persons in office or of high professional standing, and cannot attend with all the punctuality desirable to duties merely honorary, encroaching, perhaps, upon duties far otherwise imperative, or, at best, upon moments of relaxation not too liberally measured. Some, indeed, and probably those under the greatest pressure of duties, are always at command; but it is still found impossible to secure attendance sufficiently large and frequent for the purposes of real work. It would certainly seem nothing more than right, that public boards should be composed of men equal to, and responsible for, the discharge of public trust. Perhaps it may be right for me to notice, by way of illustration at least, that these remarks apply with equal or even with greater force to the Commissioners of Charities. Not to speak of numerous occasional failures of attendance, three or four successive adjournments are of frequent occurrence, and there can be no doubt that educational charities, as well as others, suffer from the want of prompt and sustained action on the part of the Commission.

First, then, it occurs to me that the Board should be a working Board; and, secondly, that its relation to the master should be clearly defined. The master, at the outset, believes he is succeeding to chartered rights; and, when he finds his salary reduced, or his advantages in any way diminished, he works under a sense of disappointment and of grievance, which affects his zeal and good will very seriously. I think it very desirable that any man taking charge of a Royal School should have no prospect of boundary suits between himself and the superior jurisdiction, but should understand his rights and his position once for all. I think it unfortunate that he should look upon the school as his freehold, to be dealt with exactly as he pleases; and, although I am far from recommending that he should be subject to arbitrary dismissal, I certainly would make his tenure of office depend upon adherence to well-considered and jealously-watched rules.

I also think that the master should be made sufficiently independent in circumstances, not to find himself obliged to strain a point for the sake of catching an occasional pupil. I have more than once been told by masters that they found it impossible to carry out their own views either as to study or discipline; because, if the attempt were made, such or such a pupil would be withdrawn. In this way the master is obliged to submit to the terms imposed often by ignorant and ill-judging parents, because he cannot afford to do without the small profit derivable from even one pupil. I do not think that, without a complete recasting of the two schools I have mentioned, and a fresh start for all parties, they ever can be made to flourish. It is not conceivable that an intelligent parent, seeing

half a dozen of boys in a great rambling house, dozing over such oddly assorted books as they may have been able to pick up, would think of increasing the number by his own son.

It is also my impression that, in whatever school classical studies form part of the course, they should be the characteristic part, and be made obligatory upon every pupil; otherwise the school loses caste. Few of those requiring a classical education will resort to it at all, and none with advantage. I confess, however, that I look upon classical studies as very incomplete without the English classics. In France, the pupils of the Lycées, and indeed of private schools, read the French classics as part of the school course, and deal with them in every respect as we do with the Greek and Latin classics. In French schools, also, every pupil is obliged to study at least one modern language; and at home I certainly would not suffer French to be made an extra charge in any Endowed School of public foundation, or to be omitted from the course. Altogether, I would give to these schools a more practical character than belongs to them at present. I have visited only one school in which the pupils have an idea of English composition, and I have not seen one whose pupils understood the simplest rule of criticism. The principles of arithmetic are almost totally unknown, even by pupils of evident smartness and tolerable proficiency in mathematics; while modern languages are, as a rule, either totally neglected or very badly taught, even where the teachers, as sometimes happens, are natives of the respective countries

With respect to exhibitions, I am convinced they could be made much more useful to the schools to which they are attached than I am inclined to consider them at present I believe they should be competed for in the school itself. Under the existing system a clever boy is noticed by the master; undergoes a forcing process, while other pupils are neglected; and is then sent to Dublin to win a character for the school. Were these exhibitions competed for at periodical examinations, I am quite satisfied they would be found productive of much good. In the first place, it would lead to the revival of those examinations at present completely or all but completely fallen into disuse; and secondly, it would give to the examinations, so revived, a considerable degree of interest and solemnity not otherwise likely to belong to them.

It is my view, also, that the admission of free pupils should no longer be at the discretion of the master, inasmuch as I have found the masters disposed to treat every such admission as a sacrifice, or at least as a perfectly gratuitous act of kindness upon their part, although the deed or other instrument of foundation seldom fails to point out very precisely the object of the founder's bounty, such as the tenants of a certain estate, or the inhabitants of a certain town or barony. I would further recommend that, should it be found desirable to make any of the present schools available to a different class of pupils from those resorting to them now, the actual distinctive character of such school should be completely altered, unless, indeed, the school estate were considerable enough to support a second foundation of the new character required, side by side with the existing school. I have already stated the grounds of my opinion that classical studies should be the feature in a classical school. I have an equally strong persuasion that any school intended for the benefit of the commercial classes should be emphatically commercial in character, and that it would be a particularly unfortunate attempt to graft a classical upon a commercial school; for this reason, amongst others, that the master of a commercial school can never have the proper oversight of his classical assistants, with the subject matter of whose teaching he is not supposed to be, and rarely is, conversant. I would venture to suggest that the pupils of a commercial school should learn not only the principles of book-keeping, but of banking, and perhaps of life and marine assurance, with, say, a little of mercantile law and custom.

I have taken pains to ascertain the feeling of such of the Roman Catholic clergy or laity as I have had occasion to meet, with reference to the advisability of Roman Catholics resorting for education, under proper guarantees, to institutions like the Royal Schools. That feeling I have found to be invariably hostile; and, for my own part, having regard simply to what may be possible, and omitting altogether the consideration of what might be desirable or the reverse, it would, I apprehend, be quite hopeless to think of making the Royal Schools available for Roman Catholic education. It has constantly been urged upon me that the absence of tampering with religious belief and the most absolute respect for conscience are purely negative advantages, and that it seems strange to leave a boy without positive religious instruction, at the precise age when the best and worst qualities of mind and heart are in process of formation.

2.—*Diocesan Schools.*

I had to deal with four Diocesan Schools. In their present state they are absolutely useless.

3.—*Grammar Schools of Private Foundation.*

Most of the previous observations apply to this subdivision. The Carrickmacross School in Monaghan, the Kilmore Academy in Cavan, and the Missionary College in Athlone, stand by themselves; and with respect to them I beg to refer to my Report upon each.

II.—NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

I have no suggestion to make in connexion with the National Schools. They are generally in a state of high efficiency; and any defects I have had occasion to notice in my reports are referable to a departure, in each instance, from the National System.

III.—Charter Schools.

With two exceptions, I found the schools of the Incorporated Society in good working order.

IV.—Parochial or Church Education Society's Schools.

Of these schools, and also of the Erasmus Smith English Schools, I may say, as will appear from my reports, that they are miserably inefficient. I ascribe their inefficiency to the following causes:—

1. To the incompetency of the teachers.
2. To the defects of the system.
3. To the inferiority of the school-books.
4. To the ideas of the superintendents (the local clergy of the Established Church) with regard to secular education.

1. The male teachers are almost invariably the parish clerks of their respective districts, and the female teachers, their wives. They have themselves, for the greater part, been educated in schools of the same description, and, except in rare instances, are not likely to communicate more instruction than they themselves received at school. They are usually very illiterate. The salary at the disposal of the clergy objecting to the National System is too small to procure the services of a qualified teacher; and as any thing the schoolmaster might receive as teacher merely would be insufficient for his support, the clergyman is obliged to appoint the same man parish clerk and schoolmaster. The clergyman has often expressed his regret to me that it is not in his power to get rid of the parish clerk, although he may dismiss the schoolmaster; for not only are these teachers almost invariably ignorant, but we find them occasionally immoral. And here, I confess, I have been surprised that clergymen should think it right to keep men of this character in their employment as schoolmasters, although their dismissal should involve the closing of the school. In one instance the rector of the parish admitted to me that the master was a drunkard and a liar, and yet he retained him as master in preference to closing the pretence of a school he was in charge of; and not only did he intrust to him the religious training of the pupils, but directed him to pay particular attention to the Scriptural instruction of the Roman Catholics. The master's neglect of the direction in question was mentioned to me as an instance of his bad faith and want of principle.

2. I shall content myself with noticing three defects in the Church Education Society system:—

First.—The scale of proficiency, or school course, even supposing it accurately followed (which it never is), drops very far behind the National School course, the instruction given to each class in the parish schools being much inferior to that in the corresponding class of a National School.

Second.—Nothing can be more trumpery than the inspection of these schools. The day of inspection is always known for a considerable time beforehand, and *express* notice given to master and pupils. The pupils are promoted by the inspector to higher classes in the scale of proficiency, a year, or even two years, before their proficiency would warrant it. This the masters have frequently admitted to me; and I fear it is impossible to avoid connecting this practice with a very unfortunate, though well-meant rule, which I instance as the—

Third defect in the system—a rule, according to which the master receives a shilling gratuity from the Society for every pupil promoted. Indeed, there is hardly a school in which the inspector's report would not lead you to believe that every thing was in the most flourishing condition possible; and when defects are glanced at, it is after the mildest fashion, and usually by way of suggestion that "a little more attention be paid to such or such a branch."

3. The school-books are of an inferior description, being, in fact, the old stock of the Kildare-place Society, every way out of date, and behind the time. The only geography in the hands of pupils is a compendium of about twenty pages; and their spelling-books give them no assistance whatever in learning the derivation of words. Indeed, I have not visited a single Church Education Society School in which the pupils had been taught any thing with respect to the roots of words, or the nature and power of prefixes and affixes, with which the pupils of the National Schools are so familiar.

4. I have found the local clergy to attach far less importance to the secular instruction given in their schools than it would seem to claim, viewed even as nothing more than a medium of religious teaching. I have generally observed that in entering their visits in the Report Book they make no allusion to the result or nature of the examination they hold, beyond mentioning occasionally that they heard the pupils read a chapter in the Bible or New Testament. In many schools the Bible was the only reading-book. The following circumstance will serve to illustrate the views of the clerical superintendents of the parish schools. The master of a school in the county of Monaghan, in filling up the printed form of return sent to him by the Commission, wrote what follows under the head of "General Remarks:" "The Holy Scriptures is (*sic*) compared to a lamp, and a schoolmaster to give light and teach; and as the (*sic*) make the simple wise unto salvation, the (*sic*) are taught here daily, although the majority are Roman Catholics. From the above I am taught by the Saviour, if I love him, to feed his lambs, together with arithmetic, book-keeping, and mensuration." I drew the attention of Archdeacon Russell, of Clontibret, the rector of the place, to this production, when he admitted that the author was quite illiterate, but, at the same time, an invaluable teacher, and one whose loss could not easily

APPENDIX TO REPORT.

Reports of Assistant Commissioners.

G.W. Abraham, Esq.

be supplied. I had occasion also to notice before another clergyman, the rector of Monaghan, the ignorance of the meaning of the simplest words, exhibited in a school in his neighbourhood; but he asked me to bear in mind that it was a *Scriptural* school—as if the use of the Scriptures, and a knowledge of the meaning of words, were incompatible.

I am not aware that I can offer any suggestion for the reform of those schools. Although in very many instances built from public funds, their management is almost invariably secured to the clergy of the Established Church, and they are under their absolute control.

It is quite possible these observations may have travelled into topics not before the minds of the Commissioners when they desired to have a statement of our views upon the subject generally. I should have preferred a more limited discretion; but under the directions contained in your letter, I thought I should best meet the wishes of the Commissioners by stating every thing that occurred to me in connexion with the schools I had visited.

I have the honour to remain, Sir, your very obedient servant,

GEORGE WHITLEY ABRAHAM.

W. Neilson Hancock, Esq., LL.D., Secretary.

F.W. M'Blain, Esq., LL.D.

Frederick William M'Blain, Esq., LL.D.

23rd December, 1856.

SIR,—In pursuance of the request of the Commissioners that I should furnish them with a report of general impressions produced on my mind in the transaction of my business as Assistant-Commissioner, particularly with regard to special classes of schools and general causes of efficiency or inefficiency, I beg to submit the following observations; and, first, with regard to the

PARISH SCHOOLS.

The efficiency of these establishments appeared to me to depend mainly on two causes—

First, the appointment of a qualified teacher.

Second, the superintendence of the local clergyman.

To secure the services of a good teacher a suitable salary must be provided: in many parishes this has not been done, and the result has been that the school is placed in the hands of an incompetent or inferior master. This evil will continue until the teacher is adequately remunerated, as it is quite idle to expect that the miserable stipend, from which many unfortunate schoolmasters throughout the country now draw their scanty subsistence, will ever attract any other than a very inferior class of teachers.

Here, therefore, the desideratum is *money*.

The next important circumstance which determines the efficiency of these schools, is referable to the superintendence of the local clergy. Generally speaking, I think it will be found to be true that the usefulness of a parochial school (*cæteris paribus*) varies in proportion to the interest shown by the local clergy in its welfare. It is impossible to overrate the moral influence, not merely over the pupils, but as regards the teachers themselves, which is exercised by the conscientious clergyman, whose frequent presence in the schoolroom attests his sense of the vitally important work in which they are engaged. It has been truly said that a school to be good must have a friend: the best, and in many cases the only friend of the parochial school, is the parochial minister.

He best discharges his duty whose examinations embrace the secular as well as the religious instruction of the pupils.

I attach the more value to the labours of the clergyman in reference to this class of schools, inasmuch as they are not subjected otherwise to any adequate supervision.

The majority of them are, no doubt, in connexion with the Church Education Society, and subject to the annual inspection of their officers; but the hurried yearly visits paid to the schools by these gentlemen, however conscientious or indefatigable in the performance of their duties they may be, cannot, I fear, be regarded as productive of any very beneficial results.

Many of the parochial schools are very badly supplied with school furniture, books, and other school requisites; and, of course, wherever this is the case, the efficiency of the school will be more or less affected.

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS.

Two Diocesan Schools only were in operation in my district, viz., the Diocesan School of Kildare, held in Naas, and the District Diocesan School of Ossory and Leighlin, held in the town of Carlow.

Neither of these schools is, at the present time, of much practical use. The former school had, at the period of my visit, only thirteen pupils on the roll (all of them day boys) of whom five were the master's own children.

The schoolhouse is an old-fashioned, rickety building, situate in the town of Naas. That boarders would not be likely to be attracted to the locality, is easily intelligible; but certainly one does at first feel some surprise that a school such as this, placed in the heart of a wealthy and flourishing district, in a county town numbering 3,500 inhabitants, and having no rival, is not attended by a respectable number of day pupils. The wonder increases when you add that the master has a secured income of some £60 per annum arising from

the diocesan contributions, and a free house repaired by the county—that there are no other schools in the town or neighbourhood except the Parochial and National Schools for the poorer classes—and, lastly, that the master himself is an excellent scholar and good teacher.

The explanation is, that the Roman Catholics, who constitute the bulk of the population, decline to send their children to the school, and there are not sufficient Protestant children in the locality to maintain it.

Formerly, Roman Catholics did attend the school; but latterly, in deference to the wishes of their clergy, they have been withdrawn, although no interference with the religious principles of the pupils was ever charged against the master. Mr. Lane, however (the Principal of the institution) is a Protestant clergyman; and, from what I could learn of the Roman Catholic mind there, I do not consider it at all probable that Roman Catholic parents will send their children to the Diocesan School so long as its sole master is a Protestant clergyman, no matter how exalted his attainments or how pure his character may be.

This, in reality, appears to be the true cause of the comparative failure of the school. The appointment of a Roman Catholic as assistant-master would (as suggested in the course of the inquiry held by the Commissioners at Naas), in all likelihood, induce a return of the Roman Catholic boys; and I may add, that the efficiency of the school would be increased if the education imparted partook somewhat more of the commercial character.

With regard to the District Diocesan School of Ossory and Leighlin, that is a still more remarkable failure than the school at Naas. The old diocesan schoolhouse having become dilapidated, the master, who is also a clergyman of the Established Church (Rev. D. H. Scott), removed about two years ago to a private house in the town, where he now holds the Diocesan School, so called. On the day of my visit there were only two pupils present, and there is, I fear, but slender chance of the school reviving under present circumstances. The Rev. Mr. Jameson, who preceded Mr. Scott in the school, had upwards of forty boarders and thirty day scholars. Mr. Scott has not a single boarder, and very few day boys indeed.

Carlow is a remarkably good town, containing upwards of 9,000 inhabitants, and a large and respectable Protestant population; and yet Mr. Scott, with an income of £120 per annum, derived from the diocesan fees, is unable to draw to his school a dozen pupils. There are, however, two other gentlemen in the town having private schools or classes, to which, although not in any way endowed, the majority of the respectable Protestant children resort for their education.

The Diocesan Schools in Ireland, with few exceptions, have proved failures. The Clare-street Commissioners, in their Report of the 14th April, 1851, say that, "This has arisen partly from the mode of payment of the masters, which is alike distasteful to the clergy and masters; and, partly, from the dilapidated state of many of the schoolhouses, for the repairs of which no funds beyond a voluntary presentment by a Grand Jury are provided by law."

Additional reasons are suggested by the consideration that these establishments are not subject to any inspection or visitation, and that no adequate control is exercised over the teachers in reference to the conduct and management of their respective schools.

National Schools.

As these schools are regularly and frequently examined by the competent inspectors appointed by the National Board, it may, perhaps, be unnecessary for me to offer any remarks as to their merits or demerits. I must be permitted to state, however, that in several instances I have found teachers not at all qualified for their positions or duties, and schoolhouses and rooms quite unsuited for the reception of scholars. Further, I would observe, that the rules of the National Board, requiring a certain average attendance to be attained at their schools as a condition of their being entitled to certain advantages, throw a temptation in the teacher's way of falsifying the averages, and consequently the statements of the average attendance at these schools must be received with some reserve.

In one school a master admitted to me that he was in the habit of frequently recording a larger attendance of pupils than actually occurred on the given day; and, when I asked him why he concealed that fact from the Inspector but admitted same to me, he accounted for the difference by the remark that he was speaking to me under the obligation of an oath.

In general, the salaries paid to the teachers of National Schools are inadequate, and they are thus very seldom able to maintain the social position which so much contributes to the usefulness and influence of the schoolmaster's office.

Almost all the National Endowed Schools in my district were under the management of the parish priest, and exclusively attended by Roman Catholic children. In many of these schools the duty of visiting and superintendence is very inadequately discharged by the Roman Catholic clergy, and but seldom do they undertake the business of examining the children in their secular attainments. They probably consider that the efficient inspection conducted by the paid officers of the National Board dispenses with the necessity of any active superintendence on the part of the clergy, at least so far as secular instruction is concerned.

Almost everywhere in my district the National Schools are regarded by the people and spoken of as "the Catholic schools," and this impression on the popular mind is strengthened by the unfortunate choice so generally made in the locality of the schools, viz., the chapel-yard, or its immediate vicinity.

Slight as this circumstance may appear, I have no doubt that it has exercised a powerful deterrent effect on the attendance of Protestant children at those schools.

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Reports of Assistant Commissioners.

F.W. M'Blain, Esq., LL.D.

THE ERASMUS SMITH SCHOOLS.

Only one of the Grammar Schools founded by Erasmus Smith was in my district, viz., the Drogheda Grammar School. This class of schools is entirely under the control and management of the head-master, who is subject to no manner of inspection or visitation, and who has received no rules from the Erasmus Smith's Board to guide him in the discharge of his duty. I think this state of things, while it is in contravention of the Charter regulating the Erasmus Smith Schools, is also injurious to the efficiency of the school, which would be much promoted by a regular and adequate inspection. I may observe that the masters themselves appear to desire inspection.

Two other matters occurred to me in reference to this school—first, the education given is scarcely of that practical character which the wants of the locality require. It is to be observed that not more than one-fourth of the pupils attending the school are destined for the university, and that the remainder generally turn to commercial or manufacturing pursuits; it is obviously, therefore, of leading importance to give a good mercantile education, and with it to combine instruction in modern languages. At present the modern languages do not form any part of the course of instruction: such of the pupils as choose may learn French, but then it is an extra, and not taught during the ordinary school hours. Second, the small college exhibitions of £8 or £10 a-year, which are reserved for the competition of pupils from the Erasmus Smith Grammar Schools, are quite too inadequate in amount to offer the necessary stimulus to exertion. A judicious suggestion has been made to diminish the number of exhibitions and increase the pecuniary value of each.

It is useless to continue these exhibitions on their present footing, as they are altogether inoperative for the purpose originally contemplated by their establishment.

With regard to the English schools founded by the Erasmus Smith Board, it is to be observed that they are subject to an annual inspection by a paid officer of the Board. It is not possible, however, that the work of inspection of these schools, now 113 in number, can be adequately discharged by a single individual, no matter how great his physical or mental endowments may be. The schools are ramified throughout every part of Ireland; and it must, I apprehend, be a very great strain on the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, who now discharges the arduous duties of Inspector, to visit and examine each of these schools, as he informs me he does, in the short space of five months each year. There should be at least two Inspectors appointed, and two inspections annually of their respective districts.

It would also tend to promote the efficiency of these schools if premiums were given to the pupils for proficiency as well as for regular attendance, to which latter, by the present regulations, they are confined.

A further circumstance, affecting the class of children attracted to the schools, is involved in the regulation of the Governors, which enforces the daily reading of the authorized version of the Scriptures on all children who are able to read. This rule is naturally obnoxious to Roman Catholics, and it will, therefore, excite no surprise that the benefits of these establishments are mainly restricted to the Protestant portion of the community. In general, too, the salaries of the teachers are inadequate in amount.

INCORPORATED SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS.

The schools in my district belonging to this society were the Santry Training School, the Dundalk Institution, the Celbridge Female Institution, a male day school in Arklow, another in Dublin, and male and female day schools in Trim.

The Incorporated Society is entitled to much credit for the excellent system of competitive examinations which it has introduced, and by the result of which the admission of free boarders on the foundation of the three first-named institutions is determined. The usefulness, however, of these establishments would be considerably enhanced by the abolition of the rule which restricts the candidates for admission to the pupils of those schools in which Scriptural instruction is daily given to all the children in attendance.

The effect of this regulation is to exclude from the competition all those children, no matter what their Scriptural knowledge may be, who have been educated at the National or other schools, in which Scriptural instruction is not enforced on all who attend the same.

There is no paid inspector appointed by the Incorporated Society to visit their schools, that duty being gratuitously discharged by an annual deputation of the Society. I think, however, it would tend to increase the efficiency of these schools if a competent person were appointed and paid, on whom would devolve the duty of regularly inspecting, two or three times every year, the various establishments of the Society, and reporting to the general Board his opinion thereon.

There are, no doubt, at the present time on the Board of the Society several gentlemen of high educational attainments, and it is very creditable to them that they devote a considerable portion of their time each year to the arduous labour of conducting the examinations held in the different schools of the Society. It cannot, however, be calculated as a matter of certainty that there will always be on the Board a sufficient number of members able and willing to discharge this duty, for which no remuneration is allowed; and even if it were otherwise, it would not supersede the necessity of employing a paid inspector, responsible to the Board for the manner in which he performs the duty assigned to him. The disadvantage attending the inspection, as conducted by the annual deputation from

the Society, is that full notice of their intention to visit must be given to the schoolmaster beforehand, so that he has ample time to prepare for their reception, whereas a paid inspector might visit the school with or without notice, as deemed advisable.

Royal Schools.

The only one in my district was the Carysfort Royal School. Here the children of the poorer classes of the locality receive a gratuitous education. The school is very far indeed from being as useful as the magnitude of the endowment would lead one to expect; it is, in fact, not at all superior, if equal, to the ordinary class of country National schools. The district is very wild, and there may be difficulties in the way of maintaining an efficient school; but it does occur to me that the total absence of inspection and supervision is in this case connected with the comparative inefficiency of the school.

The Clare-street Commissioners do not personally visit the schools which, like this, are nominally under their management; neither have they the services of paid inspectors. The result is that the master is left entirely to himself, without the semblance of check or control over his proceedings, and without the stimulus to exertion which the prospect of inspection would be sure to supply.

Schools taught by Religious Teachers.

I think it right to mention these schools as being distinguished by certain special excellencies.

I visited several boys' schools taught by the Christian Brothers, and several girls' schools, either taught by or under the immediate superintendence of Roman Catholic ladies belonging to various religious orders. I was much impressed with the general aspect presented by these schools, and particularly with their discipline and order, combined with the cheerfulness and docility of the pupils. The boys educated in the Christian Brothers' Schools have in general attained an unusual degree of proficiency in the different branches of learning in which they are instructed.

The superiority of these schools is doubtless in a great measure to be ascribed to the extraordinary personal influence exerted by the teachers over the pupils—an influence based on the distinction that these teachers have devoted their lives to the cause of education for no private or personal gain or reward, but solely in the discharge of a sacred and self-imposed duty.

In addition to this cause, the Christian Brothers who teach in the schools appear to have been remarkably well trained for the business of instruction, not merely that they are themselves good scholars, but that they have acquired a great aptitude in the art of teaching, and no ordinary skill in devising the most efficient method for the organization and discipline of their schools.

Change of Site of Schools.

There are some Endowed Schools which are quite inoperative for good in the locality in which they are placed, but which if transferred elsewhere, might become efficient. An instance of this is afforded by the Navan Endowed School. That establishment, although possessed of ample funds, does not appear at any period of its existence to have attained any degree of success. No doubt this might be accounted for in past times by the shameful mismanagement and jobbery which for a long time prevailed in its affairs; but now that these causes have long since disappeared, there seems as little prospect as ever of any appreciable improvement in its condition.

The school, situate in a dirty and very unattractive country town, is not likely to draw boarders; and the great bulk of the inhabitants being Roman Catholics, their children will obviously attend, in preference, the flourishing Roman Catholic seminary in the town. The Protestant children are very few, and by no means sufficient in number to support a school.

If the founder's will did not stand in the way, this is just the case in which the experiment of removing the school to another locality might fitly be tried. The school is under the Clare-street Board, and of course never inspected.

In my special report on this school I called attention to the fact, that the head master has no control over the under master; the result being that where there is a want of cordial and co-operative feeling between these parties, the efficiency of the school must necessarily be impaired. It appears to me that a school properly organized should, like an army, have but one head, and that where the authority is divided, no great amount of success will be achieved.

Charity Boarding Schools in Dublin.

As my labours were much conversant with the metropolitan district, my attention was frequently directed to the parochial and other small charity boarding establishments in Dublin. The general impression produced on my mind after visiting them was unfavourable to their continuance in their present form. Children brought up in these schools are not likely to acquire that self-reliance and experience of the world which are so necessary to fit them for the struggles of afterlife, and, therefore, I think that those parishes have acted wisely, which, wherever it was practicable, have broken up their boarding establishments, and made some other provision for the support of their orphans and destitute

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the interest in the minds of the clergy in education generally, and the inspection of other schools may supply useful suggestions for the management of schools in their own parishes. This inspection, which I found was frequently termed diocesan, is, however, but the voluntary act of the clergy, and their other avocations prevent as frequent inspection as the case requires, and it is not unattended with expense. The clerical inspection may, perhaps, have a disadvantage in this, that where several clergymen take the duty in turn, some may entertain different views respecting the merits of different parts of education, and thus prevent a uniformity of action, which is not only good in itself, but makes the comparative state of different schools more apparent. To the frequent visits of the clergy to their own parochial schools too much importance cannot be attached, and in some instances, I think a more active interest in the secular education of the children would be desirable.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

With respect to the National schools, the supply of school requisites is ample, and it is unnecessary to state that the books for secular education are remarkably good; the salaries for the masters and monitors appear adequate; a good deal is done in the way of inspection, but I think the inspection should be more frequent—in many cases it occurs but twice, in some but once a-year. In some instances, Saturday is the day on which religious instruction is given: I do not think the day well selected, as the attendance on that day is always thin; and in one or two instances, I found that religious instruction was only given occasionally on that day, the masters considering that this was a department rather for the priest of the parish than for themselves.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND OTHER SCHOOLS.

In the school under the management of the community of the Christian Brothers, which I was directed to visit, I found the teaching efficient, and the masters zealously devoted to their work.

The schools under the Society of Friends, which I reported upon, were, I think, two in number, they are conducted with method and regularity, and the endowments appeared to be managed with care and attention.

I visited but one English day school under the Commissioners of Education; it does not appear that it is subject to any inspection, save such as is voluntarily given by the clergymen of the Established Church in the parish; and with reference to this school, I beg to refer to my report.

To the active interest taken in the cause of education by different classes of persons in Belfast, I attribute the efficiency of many of the schools in that town. I was very favourably impressed with the Institution for Deaf and Dumb pupils at Belfast, and I beg to refer to my report on this establishment.

I was informed in the parts of the country where the linen manufacture in its various stages was carried on, that the children are removed from school at an earlier period than formerly, for the purpose of assisting in the business; this was assigned in some instances as the cause of the pupils not being more advanced. In order to make good the loss thus occasioned, I found that night schools for young persons had in some instances been established, these were held in the schoolrooms which had been occupied in the day time by the children.

It appears to me that every endowed school should be subject to frequent inspection by competent persons, that this inspection should not take place at stated times, but should as far as possible be unexpected. I think this particularly necessary in case of endowed schools which are not in connexion with any board or society. Where an endowment comes into operation during the lifetime of the grantor, the probability is that he will see that his intentions are carried out; but those who succeed him may not feel the same interest in the object, and thus the intention of the donor be, more or less, frustrated. It appears to me also that the inspectors of the different classes of schools, should respectively, as far as circumstances admitted, carry on their inspection in a uniform manner.

With regard to the schools for the poorer class of children, I think, as a general rule, no person should be appointed a master who had not been trained in a suitable training establishment; and that in this class of school there should be paid monitors. The school at large is benefited by such an arrangement, the prospect of succeeding to such a post is a stimulus to every pupil, it tends to provide efficient assistance to the master in the conduct of the school, and under a competent master it is a step towards the future training of such of the pupils as may hereafter become schoolmasters

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

EDWARD PENNEFATHER.

W. N. Hancock, Esq., LL.D., Secretary to the Commissioners of Endowed Schools, &c.

W.D.Ferguson, Esq., LL.D.

William Dwyer Ferguson, Esq., LL.D.

49, Mountjoy-square, 13th December, 1856.

SIR,—As Her Majesty's Commissioners desire to have the general impressions with respect to the Endowed Schools produced on my mind in the transaction of my duties as Assistant Commissioner, I beg to state that in my tour of inspection I visited the Royal schools of Enniskillen and Raphoe, the Diocesan schools of Derry and Ballymena, several schools on the foundation of Erasmus Smith, two considerable classes of schools on the foundation of

Colonel Robertson, and of the Honourable the Irish Society, in addition to a large number of schools in connexion with the Commissioners of National Education, and the Church Education Society, and many on private endowments, unconnected with public bodies.

Royal Schools.

As regards the Royal schools, I cannot but think that the excellent establishment at Raphoe is unfairly circumstanced, in comparison with its sister Royal schools. All the latter have attached to them valuable exhibitions, which constitute strong inducements to parents to send their children to be educated in them, in preference to the Raphoe school, which is by some unfortunate accident deprived of this collateral advantage. It also occurs to me that it were much to be desired that adequate retiring allowances could be provided for the head masters of Royal schools, after they have spent their youth and strength in the arduous and exhausting labours of education, in its higher branches.

Colonel Robertson's Schools, in County Donegal.

The schools on the foundation of Colonel Robertson, in the county of Donegal, subsisting in every parish in the diocese of Raphoe, constitute a class of endowments which deserve to be specially noticed.

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland, upon a suit instituted to regulate this charity, declared (by decree, dated 7th March, 1803) that these bequests should be considered as a bequest of a sum of £300 for the benefit of each parish; and it appearing that there were thirty-one parishes in the diocese, he decreed the bequests to amount to a sum of £9,300, and he directed that the trustees should submit to the Master a scheme for the founding and conducting of the schools.

In pursuance of this decree, a report was made by the Master (Westby), bearing date the 11th March, 1805, in which, among other matters, the Master reported that it was highly necessary to the establishment of this charity that in every parish the clergyman thereof should procure the fee-simple of an acre of land, with a good title thereto; and that the plan of a schoolhouse should be laid before the Committee, and, when approved, that a sum of £30 should be paid for the building each schoolhouse.

He also found that £3 was a proper sum to be laid out on the purchase of books and incidental expenses for each school.

He further found that the bishop of the diocese should, at each annual visitation, appoint a visitor for the parishes contained in each barony, who should at least visit the schools on the foundation within the limits twice in the year, and report to the Managing Committee the state of the schools; and that the master of each school should keep a book, wherein any visitor who may choose to do so, might enter any remarks he might think proper, which should be returned by the visitors to the Committee at the ensuing visitation.

The income derived from the interest of the money invested in Government stock is now barely sufficient to contribute to thirty-one schools the annual sum of £15, Irish currency, of which £11 1*s.* 6*d.* is appropriated to the master's salary, and the rest to the purchase of books, school requisites, and sometimes to the repairs of the schoolhouse.

It must be remembered, that from the fall in the rate of interest from five to three per cent., the annual income, which Colonel Robertson intended for those schools is not now available; besides that, the value of money was much greater than it is now, while, on the other hand, the remuneration for educational labour is higher now than it was in 1790, and competent teachers cannot be procured for a sum of £11 1*s.* 6*d.*, with the insignificant addition of school fees in a country district. The endowment is therefore, under existing circumstances, incapable, *per se*, of supporting an efficient school, though forming a valuable basis, which, fairly supplemented, would support a school. The endowment has been almost invariably given to the parochial school of the parish; and though I do not see any thing in the will of Colonel Robertson absolutely entitling the parochial school to the benefit of the endowment, yet the circumstance of his constituting the bishop of the diocese and the rectors of all the parishes in the diocese collectively as trustees, renders the application natural and proper, so long as it does not defeat the intention of the testator, which was the establishment of an efficient school. Now, it appears to me, when the entire support of the master is thrown upon the endowment by the rector of the parish, who is, in many cases, under the obligation imposed by the Statute 28 Henry VIII. cap. 15, sec. 9, "to keep, or cause to be kept, within the parish, a school for to learn English," the bequest of Colonel Robertson becomes an evil rather than a benefit, as, by superseding all other support, it introduces a starveling, useless school; and I am bound to say that, with some honourable exceptions, I believe this diocese of Raphoe would have been provided with parochial schools of a better class if the endowment had never been made. More than one half of the Robertson Schools are unprovided with an adequate supply of books, maps, or other school requisites; and the majority of them are held in houses in a state of disrepair: one is held in a small cabin (Kilteevogue), another in a large and dilapidated house of worship (Letterkenny). Several of the schools are unprovided with any external accommodation—some of them being in the immediate neighbourhood of towns, as Raphoe and Killybegs, some of places of worship, as Kilmacrenan and Letterkenny. This is not only a source of nuisance, but is prejudicial to the training of children of both sexes in habits of decency and morality. With very few exceptions, these schools are unprovided with a time-piece, and though in some cases the teacher may have a watch, it imperfectly supplies the want. It is useless, under such circumstances, to post up time-tables prescribing a particular order of business, for it is unreasonable to expect the master or the children to observe its directions, when neither of them can know the hour of the day. Punctuality of attendance and dismissal is impossible.

The funds at the disposal of the Robertson Committee may be inadequate to provide these requisites of an orderly and efficient school, but their cost is so moderate that they might reasonably be expected to be provided by local contributions; and, as the endowment is thrown away, where a competent teacher, adequate school requisites, and a suitable schoolhouse are not maintained, I think it is worthy of consideration whether the endowment should be given to any school in which they are not provided.

The want of an effectual system of visitation and inspection is very observable throughout these schools. The report of the Master in Chancery directs that there should be a visitor for each barony, and that there should be a report-book, in which the visitor might enter any remarks, to be returned to the Committee. In some instances the visitation is made by the rectors of adjoining parishes interchangeably. In the case of one visitor only did I find that any remarks were entered in the report-book, and as far as I could learn from the sworn testimony of the masters, the visitors do not generally offer suggestions or directions for their guidance or the improvement of their schools, and if such suggestions are given I saw no results flowing from them. The inspection in most instances is but a formality to entitle the teacher to his salary by ascertaining the number of pupils in attendance, and I believe it is of no further value. I have seen all the reports furnished by the visitors during the past half year, and the perusal of them does not alter my impression. No school can be kept up in a state of efficiency and progressive advancement without a system of vigilant and constant inspection. The continual visits of the clergyman of the parish, or the proprietor of the estate, are valuable, but cannot afford the advantages of external visitation by a trained inspector, who sees the merits and defects of a number of schools, and by comparison can correctly estimate what should be expected from any school placed under a given state of circumstances, and accordingly can suggest suitable remedies for ascertained defects. The want of external inspection, always impending, and frequently effected, appears to me to be the great desideratum in this class of endowed schools.

With reference to the evidence given by the Secretary of the Robertson Schools (Rev. Mr. Fullerton) before the Commissioners, to the effect that the Raphoe School which they had visited presented in his (Mr. Fullerton's) opinion a fair specimen of the Robertson Schools generally, I think it right to say that I cannot subscribe to that statement, if it refers to the efficiency and the competency of the teachers, as the context would lead me to suppose. Among all the Robertson Schools of which I had the opportunity of inspection, there were but four with which I was entirely satisfied in this respect, namely, All Saints, Inniskeel, Killygarvan, and Raphoe; ten were just satisfactory, and twelve were unsatisfactory. The rest were closed when I visited their localities. In three of them, namely, Killymard, Lettermacaward, and Raymonterdoney, English grammar was not taught. If Mr. Fullerton's evidence is to be understood as relating to the state of repair, or rather of disrepair of the schools, in that sense I would concur with him, as the state of the Raphoe School is a fair sample of the general condition of the Robertson schoolhouses. In the case of the Raphoe School, which answers for a parochial school, the rector holds a valuable preferment, and contributes nothing to the school; and I cannot but think that the Robertson Endowment is abused when it is made instrumental in releasing the incumbent from the duty cast upon him by law, in a case such as this where the income reaches a certain amount, to keep, or cause to be kept, a school within his parish.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS.

I would also beg to call your attention to another large class of schools which I visited, and which derive their endowment wholly or in part from the funds of the Honourable the Irish Society, and to explain the circumstances under which these schools have to come under the consideration of the Commissioners as "endowed schools."

The Society of the Governor and Assistants in London of the New Plantation in Ulster, in Ireland, commonly called the "Irish Society," was incorporated by charter from King James I., dated 29th March, 1613: for the "better ordering, directing, and governing all and all manner of things for and concerning the city and citizens of Londonderry, and the county of Londonderry." The charter confirmed to the city of London the grant of the entire county of Londonderry, then called Coleraine, which was afterwards divided among the twelve London Companies, who contributed to the expenses of the plantation, in severalty. The charter also granted to the Irish Society 4,000 acres of land, next adjacent to the city of Derry, and lying on the western side of the river of Lough Foyle, and also the Abbey of Coleraine, and 3,000 acres of land adjoining it. In the reign of Charles II. a further charter was granted to the Irish Society, dated 10th April, 1662, reciting the charter of King James, and the several grants of lands made to the London Companies, and declaring that the Society retained in its own hands such parts of the lands as were not divisible, for defraying the charge of the general operations of the plantation. In the litigation which took place between the Irish Society and the Skinners' Company (one of the twelve subscribing companies which had allotted to it an estate in severalty) in the year 1836, the Irish Society not only admitted, but insisted, that they were merely trustees for public purposes connected with the plantation; and the House of Lords in that case decided that such was the true character of their position. The Lord Chancellor (Lord Cottenham) stated (12 *Clarke and Finnelly's Reports*, p. 481): "They have applied the funds for public purposes connected with the plantation, and connected with the affairs of the Society—they have applied them for the purposes of religion, partly in building and repairing churches and chapels, of public schools, and the payment of schoolmasters." He declared that they were but trustees for these purposes, and that the funds which they held were applicable to the discharge of these public duties, though they had a discretion as to the extent and manner in which they should apply them. The Lord

Chancellor added—"What was the object of this plantation, and the object of the grant? It was a great public object. It was for the purpose of providing for the settlement of this district, which had been laid waste by the rebellion. It was to introduce civilization and order into that district; to provide for the establishment there and the maintenance of the Protestant religion. These trusts are continuing. They have still to provide for the Protestant religion, the Protestant establishment of that district; and, with the establishment of religion in that district, they have also to superintend and take care of that which is closely and intimately connected with religion, and is a part of it—the education of the inhabitants of the district."

The Irish Society may, therefore, be described (in the language of the Royal Commissioners of Inquiry into the State of the Corporation of London) as a large charitable endowment for the North of Ireland, managed by an absentee committee in London: and of all the objects of the plantation, that which seems most to bear the character of a continuing and unfulfilled trust, is the education of the inhabitants of the district. The Irish Society has at all times recognized the claims of education upon their funds, to some extent; and it appears from their statements that grants for schools in Londonderry and Coleraine were made from the year 1613, or contemporaneously with the date of their first charter. But how much of the revenues of the Society have been applied in earlier times to the purposes of education, I am unable to say. The Skinners' Company, in their case before the House of Lords, complained that while the management of the estates of the Society for the eight years ending in 1832, cost upwards of 50 per cent., or £5,000 per annum, the annual expenditure upon schools did not exceed £480. It appears that in the year 1828, out of an income of £7,259, the disbursements for education were £542; in 1829, out of £7,282 the school disbursements were £439; in 1830, out of £10,513, but £438. However, it is right to add, that from the year 1836, the Irish Society have been gradually increasing their grants for educational purposes; and they have now raised them to an amount somewhat more commensurate than formerly with the just claims of the district. In the year 1855, out of an income of about £10,000, a sum of £1,478 was devoted to the support of education in schools, in addition to some small donations for their erection and repairs. Of this sum, £430 was applied towards the maintenance of the large establishment near Derry, called the Foyle College; £253 to the Irish Society's Schools in Coleraine; £80 to the Agricultural School at Templemoyle; and the residue, or £715, was distributed among about eighty-six schools (Sunday and daily) in sums of from £30 to £1. The grants to fifty-eight schools were in sums of from £5 to £1.

With the exception of the keeping of their own very excellent school in the town of Coleraine, the Irish Society cannot be said to superintend, in any proper sense of the term, the education of the district committed to their charge. They have no other school or establishment properly under their superintendence or control. They merely give grants in aid to the Foyle College, the Templemoyle Agricultural School, and to the other eighty-six schools which participate in the benefit of the funds placed at their disposal; but they do not exercise any control or supervision whatever over them. The greater part of these schools are, no doubt, under very efficient inspection, at the hands of other bodies, and this might be supposed to dispense with the necessity of inquiry on the part of the Irish Society as to the application of their grants; but I have found instances in which schools struck off the roll of the National Board from the incompetency or misconduct of the teachers (and upon grounds which, on examination, I highly approved of), still continued as recipients of the grants of the Irish Society. In such cases the grants were not merely thrown away, but made productive of positive mischief, by enabling the teachers to hold out against the National Board, and by keeping possession of the schoolhouses to prevent the appointment of proper and efficient teachers. I beg to refer to my reports on the schools of Ballougry, Molenan, and Sheriff's Mountain, in illustration of this statement. Indeed, from the very constitution of the Irish Society, its members being absentees, living in London, and in a constant state of mutation every second year, it is impossible that they could exercise any efficient supervision or superintendence over the schools which they contribute to; and I am obliged to say that their grants are in a great many instances given without discrimination, as they are continued without regard to the altered circumstances of the school and the locality. I cannot say that it is a judicious application of the large funds at their disposal to distribute them in driblets of £5 and £2 10*s.* to schools here and there, apparently with a view to please all parties, or to put an end to the importunities with which the deputations from the Society are assailed at their annual visits. Small grants, such as these, should be made with the utmost caution, as in certain cases they become instruments of mischief instead of benefit to a neighbourhood. The grant is in itself incapable of providing an efficient school, but may help to keep up a starveling and a useless one. The grant may become valuable in aid of adequate local contributions; but when given without regard to the existence of such support, it is thrown away. Several of the grants of the Irish Society are open to this observation, that they are conferred upon inefficient and useless schools, which either did not deserve or did not procure any sufficient local assistance. In one instance I observed that the grant was given to support a school upon a gentleman's estate for the benefit of his own tenantry, and to which the gentleman himself contributed not a farthing, nor would suffer it to obtain the benefit of inspection or assistance from either the National Board, or the Church Education Society. The teacher's salary was confined to the £10 given by the Irish Society. The school was without books, maps, slate pencils, discipline, or instruction. Some of the grants are made to schools held in miserable hovels, in which discipline and habits of cleanliness and order are impossible.

It appears to me to be contrary to the nature of things, that a trust of this nature could

be discharged effectually by a fluctuating body of London merchants, having no personal interests, feelings, or sympathies in the matter. The political necessity which gave rise to the creation of the trust has, I believe, long since passed away; and as the members of the Irish Society have confessedly no beneficial interest in the funds which they distribute, the natural and sensible course would seem to be, to delegate the trust to local gentlemen, who would bring to bear upon the discharge of their duties the necessary information, the community of feeling and interest, and the opportunity of constant personal inspection and supervision which are essential to its due performance.

The Royal Commissioners, on the state of the Corporation of London, have, upon other and independent grounds, made a recommendation to this effect. They say—"We recommend that the Irish Society be dissolved, and its charter repealed by Act of Parliament, and its property be vested in a new set of trustees, whose number and character should be defined by the Act."

With regard to the Foyle College or Diocesan Free School of Londonderry, there is a special matter which arises for consideration in regard to its relations with the Irish Society. The citizens of Londonderry allege that the Foyle College should properly be the free school appertaining to the county of Londonderry; and that the endowment intended for this school by King James I. was intercepted and appropriated to their own use by the Irish Society. The Irish Society, on the other hand, though contributing something to the support of the school, have always disclaimed that the school possessed, of right, any other character than that of a diocesan free school.

From the lapse of time it is, perhaps, impossible to arrive at any conclusion on this subject absolutely certain, but there are several facts which give more than a colour of probability to the allegations of the citizens of Derry. In the original scheme of plantation of the six escheated counties of Ulster, propounded by King James I., A.D., 1608, he expressly declared that there should be one free school, at least, in every county, for the education of youth, in learning and religion; and it is singular that his purpose should have miscarried only in the county of Londonderry, the settlement of which was undertaken by the Irish Society and the London Companies. It appears that the Corporation of London accepted the King's proposal to undertake the plantation of the county Londonderry (then called Coleraine), after having first sent a deputation of their body to Ireland to inspect it. They required, as a condition for their doing so, that the towns of Derry and Coleraine should be given as the sites of two towns; and that 4,000 acres of land adjoining Derry, and 3,000 acres adjoining Coleraine, should also be conferred upon them. The 4,000 acres near Derry are determined by the charter to have been on the western side of the Foyle; that tract, and the 3,000 acres near Coleraine, formed the property of the Irish Society; all the intermediate tract, between the Foyle and the Bann having been allotted, in severalty, to the twelve London Companies.

It further appears that another deputation, consisting of Alderman Proby and Matthew Springham, visited the plantation in 1616, and in consequence of the reclamations of King James upon the non-fulfilment of the terms of the charter, the deputation reported to the Corporation of London as follows:—"And for a free school we have allotted, when it is done, 300 acres, which Mr. Springham has promised to build, at his own charge, next year." This report seems strongly to confirm the claim of the free school of Derry to the endowment intended for it by King James, and recognized by the deputation of the Corporation in 1616, to an extent of 300 acres at least, and to prove that it was then actually allotted to the school. On the other hand, the Foyle College, assuming it to be the Royal free school designated by the charter, has lost its appropriate endowment, and stands in singular contrast with the free schools of the other five escheated counties, as will appear from the following return presented to Parliament in the year 1849, of the endowments of the several free schools:—

County.	Contents in Plantation Acres of	Gross Income.
	A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Armagh, ...	935 0 21	1,469 5 7
Tyrone, ...	2,381 1 4	1,457 0 2
Fermanagh, ...	3,435 3 14	2,142 12 11
Cavan, ...	590 0 11	557 7 11
Donegal, ...	5,390 0 19	491 17 7
Londonderry, ...	Nil.	Nil.

Thus, somehow or other, one of the main conditions of the plantation has been unobserved, as regards the county of Londonderry; and the allotment of the 300 acres stated to have been specifically made by the Commissioners of the Irish Society in 1616, has been withdrawn or withheld. In connexion with this, there is another circumstance, which is very remarkable, if I am correctly informed in respect of it, namely, that although the charter fixes the 4,000 acres of land adjacent to Derry, intended as the peculiar property of the Irish Society, to have been on the western side of the river Foyle, the Irish Society happens to have possession of two isolated townlands on the eastern side, called Rossnagallagh and Gransha, and of no other lands on that side of the river, except some lands reclaimed from the sea; and the possession of these two townlands, surrounded by the church lands, and the separate estates of the Companies, cannot be accounted for by their charter. The two townlands correspond in their acreable contents very closely with the amount of land (300

acres) stated to have been allotted to the free school in 1616; containing by recent and, probably, more accurate survey, 309 plantation acres. But whether or not these two townlands, Rossnagallagh and Gransha, are the identical 300 acres allotted to the free school, in fulfilment of a previous obligation in that behalf, the free school of Londonderry has a strong claim against the Irish Society in this respect; and though lapse of time may have debarred all legal remedy in respect of that claim, it cannot destroy the moral and equitable claim upon the consideration of Parliament in the event of the trust property now administered by the Irish Society being placed under other regulations.

But independently of this special claim on the part of the Foyle College to a specific allotment of an endowment of land, it appears to me to have a general claim on the funds of the Irish Society to a more liberal support than it has, as yet, received. The school was, for a long period of time, mainly dependent on the liberality of the Bishops and Corporation of Derry, and the twelve London Companies having property in the neighbourhood, and received, until later times, little assistance from the Irish Society. The support of the London Companies was a precarious resource for a public school, as appears from the changes which have taken place in the list of donations within the last forty years. The following donations have altogether ceased:—Corporation of Derry, £80; Fishmongers' Company, £100; Ironmongers', £60; Carpenters, £5 5*s.*; Barbers', £5; Grocers', £100; Drapers', £100; Skinners', £100; Cooks', £10; Brewers', £9; Pewterers', £5. The Mercers' gave £105; they now give £50, but nominate two boarders who pay £10 each, but for whom the regular charge is £79 16*s.* The Irish Society has increased its grant from £110 15*s.* 4*d.* to £420; but the school has, notwithstanding, lost an annual income of £496, and is reduced to a state of very great destitution. This is the more to be lamented, as it occupies a commodious and handsome building, within a convenient distance of the thriving city of Londonderry. The house is well built, and in good preservation as regards the main parts of the building. It is capable of accommodating from seventy to eighty boarders, and at least as many day boys; and has been declared by several successive sets of Commissioners, to be capable of becoming one of the most useful schools in Ireland. It has at present an excellent head-master, who is both competent and zealous, but may well feel oppressed with the weight of his pecuniary responsibilities. This fine establishment has the floors and bedsteads of its dormitories in a state of decay; it is without suitable class-rooms and school requisites, models, or apparatus for the liberal education of its pupils. It has no adequate means of amusement or exercise for the boarders; its playground is insufficient; the ball-alley is not in a proper state; there is no library of useful and entertaining books; in fact, it has little beyond its substantial walls, half empty rooms, and dreary corridors.

General Remarks.

In conclusion, I beg to say that the paramount and prevailing impression on my mind, derived from my tour of visitation, is, that the Endowed Schools, as a general body (excepting only those which are in connexion with the National Board), are under a most serious disadvantage, from the absence of any thing like an efficient system of inspection. The Royal and Diocesan Schools are practically without any supervision. The schools on the foundation of Erasmus Smith and Colonel Robertson, and the schools in connexion with the Church Education Society, are under a system of inspection which (so far as my experience went) is quite ineffectual to promote the advancement of the schools, or even to ascertain, for the information of central bodies, the true state of their proficiency.

In saying this, I desire to pass no reflection whatever on the gentlemen who conduct the inspection of the schools to which I refer. Many of these gentlemen are as intelligent and energetic as could be desired, and do their duty as well as it could be done under the circumstances; but it is beyond the power of any man, living at a great distance, by an annual or half-yearly visit, which is anticipated and prepared for, to exercise a real influence on the character of a school, or to make permanent impressions on its teacher.

Frequent and authoritative inspection appears to me to be a matter of primary necessity to every school, from the highest Royal to the lowest Parochial. Without it, the best managed school is apt to lapse into a formal routine. Too many teachers are wanting in that hearty zeal and intelligence in their office which would prevent the discharge of its duties becoming dull and monotonous; and all require to be stimulated and encouraged and kept up to their work by an active, vigilant superintendent, who can enforce his admonitions by rewards and punishments. Many of the schools to which I refer possess an invaluable superintendence on the part of the clergymen of the Established Church and other patrons; but this, though inestimable in its way, does not supply the place, nor does it command the influence, of external inspection by trained men, who have a wide sphere of observation to draw upon. The system of inspection in operation over the schools of the National Board appears to me admirably calculated to promote the efficiency and advancement of their schools; but it is a costly system, which no resources less than National can well command. For the year ending 31st December, 1855, their inspection cost £20,637 4*s.* 5*d.*, and yet it was not more than adequate to meet the requirements of their schools. It appears to me that all Endowed Schools, inasmuch as they are more or less permanently conducing to one of the objects of all good Government—the education of its people—are entitled to the benefit of systematic inspection, and that some more effectual measures than are at present in operation should be taken to protect the corpus of their endowments from being misappropriated or encroached upon. The periodical appointment of a Commission, such as the present, when a fresh crop of abuses has grown

APPENDIX TO REPORT.

Reports of Assistant Commissioners.

W.D.Ferguson,Esq., LL.D.

up and shed its seeds, is neither an economical nor a judicious method of keeping these endowments (which, as a whole, must be very valuable) safe and effective. I am unable to say whether the Clare-street Board was provided with adequate powers to preserve the Endowed Schools in working order; but if it was, the powers have been suffered to lie comparatively inactive.

Another thought was constantly present to my mind when visiting the schools under the Church Education Society and the Robertson Committee—namely, the general inadequacy of the remuneration of the teachers, and the impoverished state of the schools as to books and apparatus. Where the salary of the teacher ranges from £8 to £13, it is impossible to expect that a man possessing even a moderate acquaintance with the elements of learning will undergo the drudgery of instructing a village school, unless prevented by some physical infirmity from earning his bread by manual labour. In these schools I have found a continuous and rapid fluctuation in the teachers, and that the more competent have gone to trades or emigrated to America. Here again, I fear, that the work of the education of a people is a matter beyond the power of private resources, and that in very few instances is there a prospect of a school for the poor proving self-supporting. I think that such schools would be greatly relieved, and the cause of general education immensely advanced, if even the apparatus for the schools was supplied to them, and some uniform system of books kept in use in our primary institutions. A feeling of jealousy may at present prevent the adoption of the books of the National Board in schools connected with the Church Education Society; but I have found them pretty largely mixed with other books in the Robertson Schools.

There is a class of endowments, many of which are not at present in operation, that seems to me to deserve a special consideration. I allude to the very considerable number of endowments, constituted of small grants of land in fee-simple, made by proprietors of estates, and devoted for ever to the purposes of education, free of rent. In a great many instances the schools have been closed, the schoolhouses have fallen into dilapidation and ruin, and are an eye-sore to the neighbourhood. Most of those schoolhouses were erected in times when it was the policy of the State to promote Scriptural education, chiefly through the instrumentality of the Kildare-place Society; and building grants were made from the Lord Lieutenant's School Fund and other Parliamentary funds, on condition that the proprietor should dedicate for ever an acre of land to the school. Without offering any opinion upon the original expediency of these measures, it cannot be disputed that they have, in a great many instances, led the proprietors of estates into positions which they never would have assumed but for the Parliamentary grants; and when the grants were withdrawn, without restoring the proprietors to their original position, something like a breach of faith, or at least of an honourable understanding, seems to have been committed. In case it should ever be in contemplation to superintend and to supplement the existing endowments at the hands of the Government, the class of endowments to which I allude, appear to me to deserve special consideration.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Wm. N. Hancock, Esq., LL.D., Dublin Castle. WILLIAM DWYER FERGUSON.

Report of Government Accountant.

Richard S. Hickson, Esq.

GENERAL REPORT of RICHARD S. HICKSON, Esq., Government Accountant, on the Audit of Accounts of Endowed Schools.

6th January, 1857.

SIR—Having, in compliance with the directions of the Commissioners, most carefully examined the accounts of a large number of the minor charities and institutions connected with the endowed schools of Ireland, in addition to those already specially reported on by me, viz.:—

1. The Governors of Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, Esq.
2. The Incorporated Society.
3. The Commissioners of Education.
4. The Blue Coat Hospital, or Free School of King Charles II., Dublin.
5. The Hibernian Marine School, Dublin.
6. Madam Mercer's School, county Dublin.
7. Wilson's Hospital, county Westmeath.
8. Morgan's Charity, county Dublin.

The four first-named Boards, being the principal institutions of this nature, were brought before the public Courts held by the Commissioners, and are, therefore, fully noticed in the evidence.

The Reports relating to the Hibernian Marine School and Madam Mercer's School, in the documentary evidence, with the replies of the Governors of the charities, to whom my remarks had been submitted for explanation, and the Reports as to Wilson's Hospital and Morgan's Charity School, were referred to the Inspector of Estates, and the subject is noticed in his Report on these charities.

I have now the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, in general terms, that in all those minor institutions, errors and imperfections appear to exist in the accounts, of a similar nature to those already pointed out in the above-mentioned cases.

A very general and great impropriety, to which I beg leave to direct attention, is the frequent disposal or sale of the funded property of the schools, and the appropriation to

Report of Government Accountant.

Richard S. Hickson, Esq.

current expenditure of bequests and legacies which should, I respectfully submit, in all cases be held sacred, as an addition to capital.

The greatest and most serious defect, however, to which I feel called on to direct more especial attention, as it appears to me the source of the gravest evils, is the absence of experienced persons to act as auditors of the accounts; by this I mean properly qualified persons, unconnected with the establishment, and having the means of knowing the real extent and nature of the income and property of the institution, as well as its legitimate expenditure. In most cases, the audit is merely confined to an examination of tradesmen's bills and other vouchers connected with the expenditure alone. This is, no doubt, an essential duty; but it by no means forms a perfect or satisfactory audit, as it is most important that the income and assets should be likewise properly looked after, and that the auditors see that the rents, dividends, and all other sources of income are duly received and brought to account, and that the funded or other property is not interfered with or lost sight of.

In some instances the signatures of the tradesmen themselves have been obtained to the certificate of audit, as auditors, though it appears evident that no further examination of the accounts had actually taken place on their part, than a mere check of the tot of the credit side of the account, and that the nature and extent of the debits were entirely unknown to them.

I would very respectfully suggest that a uniform system of accounts might be adopted and acted upon in all cases, and that it should be incumbent on the auditors to see that the system of accounting, once approved of and adopted, should not in any case be permitted to be departed from.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

RICHARD S. HICKSON.

W. Neilson Hancock, Esq., LL.D.,
Secretary, Endowed Schools (Ireland) Commission.

Reports of the Inspector of Estates.

J. W. Murland, Esq.

REPORTS of the INSPECTOR of ESTATES.

To HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS for inquiring into Endowed Schools in Ireland.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,—Having been appointed by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, to inspect the estates under the management of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, the Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, Esq., the Incorporated Society, and other estates belonging to endowed schools in Ireland, and to report to you thereon, and having received your instructions for my guidance, I proceeded to inspect the several estates referred to, and beg leave to submit to you the following report :—

For the purpose of making this report more intelligible, I have had the several estates carefully laid down on the Ordnance Survey maps of Ireland, from the surveys of the different estates supplied to me. They are delineated on the county index maps, and also on the townland maps, both of which accompany this report.*

The Commissioners of Education in Ireland.

I. *Estates under the Management of Commissioners of Education in Ireland.*

The first estates visited were those under the management of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland. Before proceeding to report on each of these estates separately, I take leave to make one or two suggestions applicable to them generally.

Leasing Powers.—The Commissioners of Education in Ireland, do not seem to possess any proper power of leasing. In their Act of Incorporation, (53 Geo. III., ch. 107, sec. 13), it is enacted that the Commissioners under that Act should have all such powers of leasing and demising all and every the lands and hereditaments belonging to the said last mentioned schools respectively as the several trustees or other persons in whom such lands were vested immediately before the passing of that Act had by law for leasing and demising the said lands and hereditaments respectively. The only authority which the trustees of the Royal School estates possessed, when the last mentioned Act was passed, was to grant leases for twenty-one years, the rents to be in trust for the masters of the respective schools.

Accordingly, the Commissioners do not appear to have made any leases of the Royal School Estates. It would, in my opinion, be advantageous to these estates that the Commissioners should have ample leasing powers, but, of course, so restricted as to prevent them from being abused.

Accounts.—The rentals and accounts furnished by the agents of the several estates, and copied into the books of the Commissioners, have not been kept on a uniform system, or as clearly as they might have been; and the yearly accounts have in some cases not been sent in by the agents till many months after the time at which they should be furnished. To remedy this I beg to suggest that printed forms of rentals and accounts, prepared on the best plan, be furnished to the several agents; this would not only save trouble to the agents, but it would secure uniformity and accuracy in the accounts; and further, the annual rentals and accounts should be furnished by the agents on or before a fixed day, say, not later than the 1st of April, or at latest, 1st May in each year.

I now proceed to report on each estate.

* These maps are preserved amongst the papers of the Commission.

APPENDIX TO REPORT.

Reports of the Inspector of Estates.

J. W. Murland, Esq.

The Commissioners of Education in Ireland—Dungannon Royal School Estate.

DUNGANNON ROYAL SCHOOL ESTATE.

This estate is in the county Tyrone, four to six miles from Dungannon; it is bounded on two sides by Lough Neagh and the river Blackwater. It consists of six townlands, containing, according to the survey made in 1832 by M'Arthur, 3,890A. 3R. 12P., statute measure, of which 1,340 acres are arable land, 1,380 acres meadow and pasture, including a considerable extent of partially reclaimed bog, and 1,170 acres of undivided bog. The rent, according to the rental of 1855, was £1,458 2*s.* 2*d.*, together with £209 8*s.* 5*d.*, received for bog rent. The latter varies from year to year. For the last three years the average amount received for the turf banks was £193 14*s.* 5*d.*

Value.—In 1832 the estate was valued by Mr. Richmond at £1,439 9*s.* 9*d.*, exclusive of the turf banks.

The new general valuation of the county Tyrone is not yet made. The old valuation of this property amounts to £1,046 5*s.* 7*d.* Even making the usual allowance of twenty per cent., which this valuation is said to be under the letting value, it is still much under the rent which the tenants do pay punctually. On the three large townlands of Aughamullen, Derrytresk, and Derrylahan, the tenants have the advantage of an ample supply of turf, and the linen manufacture which is carried on in that part of the county no doubt assists them to pay their rent. On the whole, I am of opinion that the estate is fairly let, and at the same time the rent is as high as is consistent with the prosperity of the tenantry.

Arrears.—The rents are punctually paid. It appears by the accounts of the agents, furnished on the 29th of March last, that all the rent due up to, and on the 1st November preceding, had been paid, and that there were no arrears whatever due on the property. I do not find by the accounts that any arrears have been written off.

In the years 1846 and 1847 an allowance was made to the tenants, £205 7*s.* 0½*d.* being the rent of the land under potatoes in the year 1846. In the year 1848 an allowance of five per cent. was made to those who paid up their rent; and in the years 1849 to 1852, inclusive, an allowance of ten per cent. was given in like manner; and this appears by the accounts to be the whole of the loss sustained by reason of the potato failure; taken together it only amounts to about half-a-year's rent, and was, I believe, less than was generally suffered where the holdings were small, and the tenants held from year to year.

There are no leases on this estate.

Improvements.—Before the Board of Education was constituted, a lease of the estate had been granted, which did not expire till November, 1831. The Board, as appears by their report to the Lord Lieutenant, then found the lands "impoverished, and in the hands of a very numerous and poor tenantry." The late Mr. Blacker, an agent of experience, was appointed by the Board to manage the property. Under his directions the estate was surveyed and valued, the farms readjusted, the old and crooked fences removed, and straight ones substituted. A considerable sum of money has been since expended, from time to time, in making drains, forming roads, and assisting the tenants to improve their houses.

An agriculturist, paid by the Board, resides on the estate; he superintends the making drains, roads, and other improvements, suggests to the tenants the best mode of cultivating their farms, and, where it is necessary, recommends that lime and seeds should be supplied to them. The lime and seeds are purchased out of a fund which has been placed in the agent's hands for the purpose, and the cost of them is punctually repaid by the tenants at the end of the year with their rent.

It has been observed that when the Board of Education got possession of the estate it was occupied by a great number of poor tenants, and the holdings were, consequently, very small. This has been remedied, as far as it could be, without turning any tenant out of his holding, by insisting that when a tenant was leaving the estate he should dispose of his farm to one of the other tenants, thus diminishing the number of tenants on the estate. The extent to which this has been done appears from the fact, that since 1833 the number of holdings on the estate has been reduced by seventy-four.

The money expended in making drains and roads has been usefully applied. The new road made through the townland of Derrytresk (and which is marked yellow on the Ordnance map sent with this report), was very much required, but as this road has heretofore terminated at the Coal Island Canal, it has been a private road, and the tenants going to Dungannon, their market-town, had to go a round of two miles, and pay a toll besides. At present a bridge is being built over the canal and the river Torrent, at the joint expense of the county and the Commissioners of Education, by which the new road through that part of the estate will be made a county road, and the tenants will then have a direct communication opened to them with Dungannon, Armagh, &c. This will be a great benefit to the estate, particularly if the branch-roads leading from it be improved and extended as they should be.

Present State of the Property.—The houses of the tenants are, with a few exceptions, fairly comfortable, considering the size of the holdings.

The farms are carefully cultivated, and improvements of various kinds, as draining, fencing, &c., have been made on most of them.

The tenants appear to be industrious, and the spirit of insubordination which I am told did exist some years ago, seems to have disappeared. It was not, perhaps, to be wondered at that a little resistance should have been made by the tenants in the first instance to the change which, in consequence of prior neglect, it was necessary to introduce for the good, not only of the estate, but also of the tenants themselves. Notwithstanding what has been done during the last twenty years to consolidate farms the holdings are still very

small, and were it not for employment in weaving the tenants could not live comfortably by such small farms.

A coal-mine was worked on the estate for a few years, but, in the year 1853, the working of the mine was discontinued, because it was not found profitable.

The large extent of bog on the estate produces, as has been seen, an income of about £190 per annum, by letting the banks each season for turf; and after the deep bog shall be cut away the agent considers that, from the nature of the soil below the peat, and the facility for drainage, this tract of ground may be reclaimed and made arable land. It is important that this object should be kept in view in the management of the turf-banks.

There is one school on the estate for the children of the tenantry; it is erected on the townland of Aughamullan. It does not seem adequate to supply the wants of such a numerous tenantry; and as it is two miles distant from part of Derrytresk, the tenants there complain that they cannot send their children to school in winter, there seems to be some ground for this complaint; and it would be desirable that steps should be taken to have a National school established within the reach of the children on that part of the estate.

I have only to observe, in concluding my report on the Dungannon school estate, that it appears to me to have been very judiciously managed both by the late agent, Mr. Blacker, and by the present agent, Mr. Wann. From the number of small holdings, and the large extent of bog and waste on this property, more than ordinary care and vigilance are required in its management.

Law Costs.—Since writing the above report, the bills of costs furnished to the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, by their solicitors, Messrs. M'Causland and Fetherston, have been forwarded to me, and I was requested "to take them into consideration when making my report, so far as they relate to the estates of the Commissioners."

On looking into these bills of costs I found that the sum of £444 6*s.* 4*d.* is charged for business done for the Dungannon estate, from March, 1843, to April, 1853, and nearly the whole of this amount is charged for preparing notices to quit; being for each year notices were served about £85 more than the agent's entire remuneration.

I wrote to Mr. Wann for an explanation of this large and extraordinary expenditure, and I beg to send herewith copies of my letter and his reply.

I do not think the reason he assigns for serving notices to quit so frequently on all the tenants is satisfactory. Notice should only have been served on defaulters. When notices were necessary it is plain that the proper course would have been to have had one form settled by the solicitors, and the others printed, and filled up in the agent's office. In this way the costs would not have been more than a few shillings instead of several hundred pounds.

Mr. Wann says, that "he believed the late Mr. Blacker was informed that the solicitors of the Board were the proper parties to prepare notices to quit." How this may be I have no means of ascertaining.

It must be admitted that the estate has not been charged with any local law costs.

Correspondence as to Law Costs.—Copy Letter to Mr. Wann.

Mountjoy-place, Dublin, 4th October, 1856.

Dear Sir,—The bill of costs of Messrs. M'Causland and Fetherston, for law business done in connexion with the Royal School Estates, has been sent to me by Her Majesty's Commissioners, for my consideration when making my report.

And I observe that the sum of £444 6*s.* 4*d.* is charged for business done for the Dungannon Estate from March, 1843, to April, 1853.

Nearly the whole of this amount is charged for preparing notices to quit. The sum of 5*s.* is charged for each notice and copy; and notices appear to have been prepared for every tenant, or nearly so, in the years 1843, 1845, 1847, 1849, and 1851. I have not met with any thing of this kind before, and will feel obliged if you will let me know why it was necessary to serve notices on every tenant so frequently.

If it were necessary, it seems to me that one notice must have been a copy for all the others; and one having been prepared by the solicitors, a common clerk could have prepared the rest at a trifling cost, instead of at the enormous cost of upwards of £400. I presume there is not so much expense incurred in this matter on the other estates under your management.

As I have to send in my report very soon, I will thank you to favour me with some explanation on this subject at your earliest convenience.

I remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

Wm. Wann, Esq. James W. Murland.

[Answer.]

Markethill, 6th October, 1856.

Dear Sir,—Yours of 4th instant I have duly received, relative to the service of notices to quit on the Dungannon School Estate tenants. In 1846 I was entrusted with the agency of that property, previous to which I was fully aware, from my personal knowledge of the tenants, whilst assisting the late Mr. Blacker, that unless they felt there was perfect and almost immediate control over them, no *certainty* of rent-paying could be calculated on; and as times did not improve about the period referred to, I did not conceive it prudent to discontinue a plan, the efficacy of which I had known so well; and by observing a strict and firm determination to have punctuality established (when I knew there was means to do so), the result has been of late, almost a universal attendance to pay rent on the days I appoint for that purpose. Seeing these facts, the Commissioners of Education desired me to discontinue the practice of serving notices to quit, save on such of the tenants as might appear refractory.

In further replying to your letter as to "the bill of costs" for these notices, I beg to say that I was perfectly unacquainted with their extent or nature until I received your letter yesterday morning—the payment of them not having passed through my hands. The late Mr. Blacker, I believe, was informed that the Solicitors of the Board were the proper parties to supply the notices, and I followed

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his example, furnished a list of the tenants to Messrs. M'Causland and Fetherston, received from them the notices ready for my signature, and acknowledged their receipt.

I think, taking my accounts altogether, it will be discovered that the estate has not been made chargeable for any local law costs; when I had to take proceedings, I made the defaulting party pay the costs.

I am, dear Sir, very faithfully, your obedient servant.

James W. Murland, Esq., Mountjoy-place, Dublin. WILLIAM WANN.

ARMAGH ROYAL SCHOOL ESTATE.

This estate is situated on the leading road between Newry and Armagh, about midway between those towns. It consists of six townlands, containing 1,514A. 1R. 31P., statute measure, including therein some waste and about sixty-seven acres of marsh.

The present rental is £1,469 5*s.* 7½*d.*, together with £20, received for the grass of the marsh. This latter amount varies a little from year to year.

In the year 1833 the estate was valued by J. Thomas Noble at £1,413 18*s.* per annum.

The new general valuation is not yet completed for the County Armagh. The old valuation is £1,303 1*s.* 3*d.*

The present rent corresponds with Noble's valuation, the tithe rent-charge being added to it, and it has been unchanged since 1833.

The estate appears to be let at its full value, consistent with the prosperity of the tenantry.

Arrears.—The arrears due on the estate to the 1st November, 1855, when the agent furnished his account in May, 1856, amounted to £2,601 15*s.* 1½*d.*, equal to nearly one year and three quarters' rent of the whole estate. It has been usual in that part of the country to let half a-year's rent remain outstanding, and those tenants who do not owe more, consider their rent fully paid up. There are, however, seventeen tenants who owe three years' rent or upwards. These arrears, with the exception of the one half-year, which is due by all the tenants, accrued between the years 1845 and 1851; the amount of arrears due now is less than it was in the year 1851, and the agent thinks he will be able to get them all in.

With the exception of an allowance of £170 3*s.* 2*d.*, made for the failure of the potato crop in 1846, the tenants on this estate seem to have received no allowance or abatement whatever. They did not get the abatement of ten per cent. for three or four years, which was given on the other estates.

There are no leases on the estate.

Improvements.—From the time the Commissioners of Education got into possession of the estate, in 1833, till 1847, nearly £800 was expended on improvements; about £400 of that sum was expended in draining and reclaiming the bog and marsh, and the residue in giving premiums and assistance to the tenants for improving their houses and farms. The efforts made to drain the marsh have not been very successful, for it is still liable to be flooded during a great part of the year by the overflowing of the River Cushier; and there does not appear to be any way of remedying this, except by removing or altering the weir which is across the river a little below the estate. This weir was for the use of a mill on the estate of Mr. Cope, which is no longer worked; and possibly some arrangement might be made with Mr. Cope, by which the weir could be removed, or at least larger sluices put into it. In this way the water in the river would be kept lower, and a considerable extent of land on Mr. Cope's estate, as well as on the school estate, would be much benefited.

As to the money expended on improving the houses and farms, it seems to have been very usefully applied.

Present State of the Property.—The tenants generally have comfortable slated houses, and appear to be respectable and industrious.

The farms for the most part are well cultivated. Flax is generally grown on the estate.

The houses and farms of those tenants, who are much in arrear, are an exception, however, to the observations just made. Their houses are in bad order and their farms exhausted.

The Commissioners of Education have erected a school on the estate, which is under the Church Education Society. It contains a schoolroom for boys, and one for girls, also a suitable house for the master and mistress. The school appears to be well conducted, and there is a large attendance of pupils.

Suggestions.—I beg to suggest that some means be taken to reduce the amount of arrears. It was certainly injurious to the estate to let so much arrears accumulate. Notwithstanding the opinion expressed by Mr. Millar, that he expected to be able to get them all in, and that it would not be judicious to cancel any of them, I think it would be advisable to make an abatement on payment of arrears.

The facts of those arrears having accumulated during the years 1845 to 1850, and of the tenants not having received the same abatement during those years as the tenants of other estates, seem to give them some claim for such an abatement on the payment of arrears.

Subject to such abatement, they should be compelled to pay up, and care should be taken not to allow arrears to accumulate again. From the exhausted state of the farms of some of those in arrear, it is probable they will not be able to pay up any part of what they owe: in these cases it will be necessary to remove them, and there will be no difficulty in finding neighbouring tenants able and willing to occupy their farms, and to pay up the arrears on them if it be thought expedient to require it.

The present method of letting the grass of the marshes by auction, is liable to abuse. It might have been judicious while attempts were being made to reclaim them; but if nothing more can be done in this way by removing the weir above alluded to, it would be better to let the marsh to the adjoining tenants, from year to year. If let in this way, it would produce more rent and give less trouble.

ENNISKILLEN ROYAL SCHOOL ESTATE.

The estate consists of forty-one townlands in the county of Fermanagh, distant from four to nine miles from the town of Enniskillen, on the road leading to Swanlinbar; together with Portora, adjoining the town of Enniskillen, and a tenement in the town. The forty-one townlands contain 5,512A. 2R. 22P., statute measure, (including about 685A. 1R. 27P. of mountain and bog); Portora contains 53A. 1R. 20P. The present annual rent, as stated in the rental, is £2,094 12*s.* 11*d.* for the land; £22 for the Constabulary Barracks, built on the estate by the Commissioners, and £26 for the tenement in the town of Enniskillen, making together £2,142 12*s.* 11*d.* Portora yields no rent, the Royal School is built on it, and the master of the school occupies the land free of rent. It was valued at £120 0*s.* 9*d.* per annum.

In 1816 Messrs. Sherrard and Co. valued these lands, exclusive of Portora, at £2,940 7*s.* 10*d.* late currency, equal to £2,714 4*s.* 2*d.* present currency. In 1841 Mr. J. J. Byrne valued this estate, exclusive of Portora, at £2,293 11*s.* 0*d.* The new general valuation of Ireland has not yet been made for the county Fermanagh. The existing valuation of this property is £1,854 8*s.* 10*d.*; but this valuation is considered to be about twenty per cent. under the present letting value.

It may be safely stated, that if this estate were held by improving tenants, and if the farms were of a proper size, it would be at least worth the value placed on it by Mr. Byrne, in 1841. As matters now stand, the majority of the holdings are so small, the land so exhausted, and the tenants so poor, that many of them have difficulty in paying the present rent, and in case of any loss of cattle or failure of crops, the arrears would be further increased.

Arrears.—The arrears due on this estate, up to 1st November, 1854, when the agent furnished his account in October, 1855, amounted to £9,231 9*s.* 0½*d.*, equal to nearly four and a-half years' rent of the whole property. However, the arrear on many of the holdings was greater: for example—

Twenty-one owed five years' rent.	Eleven owed seven years' rent.
Fifteen owed five and a-half years' rent.	Nine owed seven and a-half years' rent.
Fifteen owed six years' rent.	Ten owed eight years' rent.
Eleven owed six and a-half years' rent.	Thirteen owed nine years' rent.

Twenty-one owed ten years' rent and upwards.

It appears by the accounts, that in the year 1840, arrears to the amount of £522 2*s.* 2*d.* were cancelled by order of the Board. Again, in 1845, arrears to the amount of £100 15*s.* 4*d.* were cancelled in like manner.

In the years 1846, 1847, and 1848, allowances were made to the tenants for the potato failure, to the amount of £1,213 12*s.* 2*d.*, besides £298 9*s.* 3*d.* allowed them in the same years for draining.

In the years 1849 to 1853, inclusive, an abatement of ten per cent. was allowed on the rental.

In consequence of the tenants being in arrears, the receipts for rent were only given on account, and no receipts were given up to a particular date, so it is difficult for the tenants to know how they stand as to arrears, and it is also difficult to check the agent's account. But from Mr. Benison's character, I have no reason to doubt that it was faithfully kept.

In several instances the tenants state that the arrears set down in the rental against them accrued before they got into possession of their farm, the former tenants who incurred the debt having sold their interest and left the estate; they admit, however, that they knew there were arrears against the farms at the time they took them.

Leases.—There are no leases. The tenants hold from year to year.

Improvements.—It appears from the accounts during the last twenty years the following sums have been expended in improvement, viz.:—About £400 were expended in making and repairing roads through the estate; about £300 were allowed to the tenants during the years 1846 and 1847 for drainage; £380 were expended in building a police barrack, and small sums were allowed in three instances to assist tenants in building houses.

The sums so expended on roads appear to have been usefully applied, as the roads made have been well laid out and have opened up the estate. These roads also afford access to the bogs and to the lime quarries.

The amount of drainage done is quite trifling, and draining at present is much required on a large portion of the estate.

Present State of the Property.—On the portion of the estate nearest to Enniskillen, comprising the townlands of Clonatrig, Derryinch, Drumbargy, Rosdoney, Drumbrocus, Derrylester, Drumcard, Mulnaveigh, Seisaght, and part of one or two other townlands, the soil is of comparatively good quality. On the remainder of the estate the soil is generally thin and light. The dwellings of the tenants, with one or two exceptions, are thatched cottages; on the greater part of the estate their cottages are constructed of clay or sods, but on the land adjoining the mountain, where stones are plenty, they are built of stone. Some of the cabins are of the most wretched kind.

The farms in general are very small, too small to support a family in moderate comfort, even if there were no rent charged for them, particularly as there is no manufacture carried on in the neighbourhood to afford employment to those members of the family who are not occupied on the land. The impoverished condition of the greater portion of the estate has, no doubt, arisen from the practice of sub-dividing holdings; many farms have been divided two or three times in the course of the last twenty or thirty years. The practice has been, for the father to divide his farm among his children, and there has not

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been any effectual check put on the practice, which has been carried so far that at the last Census there were 419 houses on the estate, and a population of 2,142 persons. Comparing this with Mr. Griffith's value of the estate, it leaves only seventeen shillings and three pence of value to each person.

The practice of subdivision has not only reduced the size of the farms below the extent which can support a family, but has been attended with another very injurious result. It has caused many of the farms to be divided into a number of scattered patches; in this way a small bit of meadow is sometimes divided into four or five portions, each too small to be separately fenced, and these small portions are distinguished by marks which the owners alone can recognize.

During the years 1847 to 1850 some of the tenants left their farms, and sold their good will to adjoining tenants. In one instance a tenant purchased five small holdings in this way, and the property was so far improved from the state it had been in before. It is to be regretted that a number of the poorest tenants were not at that time assisted to leave the estate, thereby enlarging the farms of those who remained.

A few of the farms, particularly on townlands next Enniskillen, are carefully cultivated, but the system of agriculture pursued on the great majority of the farms is as bad as possible. It is a usual course to sow oats two or three times after potatoes, till the land is completely exhausted, and then leave the ground to "rest," as they term it, without sowing any grass seed in it; in this state it remains for three or four years nearly unproductive. It is a common practice to burn portions of the land and ditches for manure. It is also common to take the sods of the fields to build houses. Both these practices are very injurious, and should be prevented.

A great portion of the estate wants draining, and no effectual improvement can be made in the cultivation of the ground until draining is carried out extensively. This remark applies particularly to the high lands adjoining the mountains at the south-western part of the estate. This portion, if drained, would be good pasture-ground; from its high elevation it is much more suitable for pasture than tillage.

There is plenty of limestone on the estate, and a limekiln was erected many years ago for the use of the tenantry. For several years the kiln was not worked, but, during the last three years, it has been used occasionally, and lime supplied to the tenantry to a small extent. If the ground was first properly drained this facility of procuring lime would be of great value to the tenants.

On the townland of Mulnaveigh, and some of the neighbouring townlands, there is clay for making bricks and tiles of very superior quality, which might be turned to good account; at present a few of the tenants make brick of it, but they do not pay any thing for the privilege of doing so, nor does there seem to be any restraint placed on their cutting up their ground and leaving it useless where the bricks are taken from.

Schools for Tenants' Children.—On the southern part of the estate, towards Swanlinbar, there is a National school, held in a thatched cottage taken from one of the tenants. This was established about seven years ago.

On the northern part of the estate there is a school kept by Bernard Maguire, an elderly man, for which he receives £10 per annum from the Clare-street Board; and he states the only books or school requisites he has received were a few furnished seven years ago, through the Rev. J. G. Porter.

There are on this part of the estate, besides Maguire's school, two National schools; one held in a very small thatched cabin belonging to one of the tenants in Rosdoney, which is largely attended, and another at Drumcard cross-road. In reference to the former the tenants expressed much anxiety to get a better house, and stated that the inspector from the National Board of Education threatened to have the grant to the school withdrawn if a better house were not provided. It would be desirable to have a better schoolhouse, and an efficient school established on this portion of the estate, as the children attending the Rosdoney school are very numerous, and the school at Drumcard cross-roads is too distant for them to attend it regularly.

Suggestions.—The first alteration I would take leave to suggest in the management of of this property is, as to arrears. It is plain that while arrears are allowed to accumulate on the tenants as they have been here, there is no chance of their farms being improved, and on those holdings on which the largest amount of arrears are due, the land is worst cultivated, and the houses most neglected, so that the rent is not only lost, but at the same time the estate injured. It is, therefore, essential to the proper management of the property, that the regular payment of rent should be insisted on. The present system of giving receipts on account, which do not show how the tenant's accounts stand, should be discontinued, and proper receipts substituted. For the purpose of securing regularity in the payment of rent, and preventing the accumulation of arrears, the board should insist, whenever a full year's rent had not been collected, that the agent should explain in the rental furnished to it, the reason why, or what steps he had taken to enforce payment. If a calamity, such as the loss of cattle, had happened to the tenant, which put it out of his power to pay, and the agent thought it a case for some allowance, the better plan would be for the board to at once remit the year's rent, or so much of it as was thought right, and not suffer arrears to accumulate.

The agent's rentals and annual accounts, should be furnished regularly in March or April, and not allowed to lie over till October, as in this case.

With respect to the large amount of arrears at present existing, it is difficult to suggest any way of dealing with them which is free from objection, where some of the tenants have been paying pretty regularly, and others as little as possible, it would be very dis-

couraging to the good tenant to place the bad tenant on an equality with him, by expunging all arrears; on the other hand, if proceedings were taken to compel the tenants to pay up all arrears, it would be equivalent to ejecting three-fourths of the tenants. This would be a very harsh measure, and one that I would not at all recommend.

A portion of the arrears has been due for a great length of time, and in some instances before the present tenants got into possession. It would be hard in such cases to insist on all the arrears being paid up, even if the tenants were able; but in three cases out of four they are unable. I would suggest the following method of dealing with the existing arrears:—

1st. Let all arrears exceeding six years be struck off.

2nd. Let any tenant who will pay £1 of arrear, in addition to his accruing rent, get a receipt for £2 of arrears, this is equivalent to allowing a discount of fifty per cent. on payment, or in other words, of throwing off half the arrear. I understand this plan has been adopted with advantage on a property in the same county. However, there is a large proportion of those most in arrear who could not pay any money in addition to their accruing rent: I would let those who prefer it, be allowed to execute such draining, fencing, or other improvement of a like kind, on their farms, as should be marked out for them; and when those improvements were executed properly and approved of, allow for them at a fixed price, and the sum so allowed should go in liquidation of the arrears, throwing off £2 of arrears for every £1 worth of work done.

The work being spread over three or four years, would fall lightly on the tenants, and only compel them to use increased exertion, while the improvements on their farms would assist them to pay the current rent.

I expect that this mode of clearing off the arrears would be gladly taken advantage of by most of the tenants. There are, of course, some who can neither make improvements nor pay rent, and the sooner they are got off their farms, the better for themselves and the estate.

The next evil to be guarded against is the subdivision of farms. To this end, notice should be given that no tenant would be allowed, either by will or otherwise, to divide his holding, and that no tenant would be permitted to transfer his holding, without first having obtained the assent of the agent; whose duty it would be, in such cases, to make him transfer his holding to the nearest tenant who may be able to manage it, so as to tend as much as possible to the consolidation of farms. Of course there is no use in laying down these rules unless they are strictly enforced by ejecting any tenant who may violate them.

For the purpose of carrying out the draining and other improvements so much required on the estate, and also of trying to change the present very defective method of cultivation generally pursued on it, by suggesting to the tenants the most advantageous way of managing their farms, I would recommend that an experienced agriculturist should be employed for a few years. He should reside on or near the estate, and occupy his whole time in superintending such improvements as the agent should approve of. In addition to the draining done in payment of arrears, if that suggestion should be adopted, it would be desirable in some cases for money to be advanced for thorough-draining; but in such cases the tenants should be charged an increased rent, equal to five per cent. on the money so expended. Any expenditure incurred in carrying out these suggestions will be amply paid for, by enabling the tenants to pay their rent regularly; and if accompanied with vigilant and energetic management on the part of the agent in the other respects indicated, will in a few years greatly improve the estate.

Cavan Royal School Estate.

Cavan Royal School Estate.

This estate is situate within a mile of the town of Cavan, and consists of four townlands, and part of a fifth, containing 907A. 0R. 35P., statute measure, together with 16A. 0R. 31P. of land adjoining the town of Cavan, on which the Royal School is built.

The rent, according to the present rental, is £557 7*s.* 11*d.* per annum. This does not include any rent for the 16A. 0R. 31P. of land, on which the schoolhouse is erected; that is occupied by the master of the school rent free.

In the year 1817 the Commissioners got the latter piece of land in exchange for 48A. 2R. 15P. of the townland of Billis, it being a more eligible site for the school.

Mr. J. J. Byrne valued the estate in 1841, at £574 0*s.* 4*d.*, exclusive of the piece of land on which the school is built.

According to the new general valuation of Ireland, the value is £637 9*s.* 0*d.*, and for the schoolhouse and the land on which it is erected, £100 per annum, £70 being for the house, and £30 for the land.

The rate at which this property is at present let, is certainly very low for land so near to the town of Cavan, and I think it is let below its fair letting value; at the same time, on the larger portion of the estate, the farms are so small, and the lands in such bad condition, that the tenants are not able, at present, to pay more than the existing rent.

The Rev. W. Prior Moore has furnished a rental of the property from 1804 to 1812, by which it appears that the lands were let at about twenty-five per cent. higher at that time than they are at present. However, as the value of land was enhanced at that period, by the depreciation of the currency and "war prices," the rent then is not a fair criterion of the present value.

Arrears.—The arrears up to the 1st November, 1854, when the agent furnished his account, amounted to £1,679 7*s.* 2*d.*, equal to three years' rent of the whole property. With the exception of the bailiff, there was no tenant owed less than one year's arrear of rent, while there was one who owed eight years'; three, who owed seven years'; two, six and a-half years'; two, five and a-half years'; three, five years'; the rest various

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amounts, equal to from one to four and a-half years' rent. The greater part of these arrears accrued in the four years, November, 1845, to November, 1849. During those four years the net receipts remitted to the Commissioners of Education were £826 19*s.* 2½*d.*, equal to an average of £206 15*s.* per annum, or little more than one third of a year's rent.

The Commissioners allowed the tenants £376 15*s.* 11*d.* for the failure of the potato crop during the same period, and gave them credit for all their poor rates, though some of them paid no rent for two or three years.

On inquiring from several of the tenants who owed the largest amount of arrears, how they owed so much as was set down against them in the rental, they stated that they could not owe so much. They were then required to produce their receipts. These, with one exception, were not for rent due to a particular period, but on account of rent generally, and frequently for small sums, less than half a year's rent, so it is difficult for ignorant persons, as most of the tenants are, to know how they stand as to arrears. On comparing the receipts with the books kept by Edward Smith, the bailiff, it was found, in the cases investigated, that with two exceptions, the tenant had received credit for the sums mentioned in the receipts. The difficulty of investigating the correctness of the arrears charged in the agent's account, is very great, in consequence of the fact that many of the holdings mentioned in the rental have been subdivided; and further, one tenant occasionally holds small portions of two or three different holdings. In these cases no sum is found in the account to correspond with the sum mentioned in the receipt, but several smaller sums, which in the aggregate, make up the sum in the receipt. In this way the accounts have become very complicated.

The bailiff, Mr. Edward Smith, has acted also as under-agent, and has received a large portion of the rents and signed receipts. The following endorsement, however, appear on receipts issued in October, 1855:—"Future rents to be paid to me, and on office days only.—JAMES BENISON."

There are no leases on this estate; the tenant holds from year to year.

Improvements.—Between the year 1831 and 1843, the Commissioners appear, by their accounts, to have allowed £78 to thirteen tenants for improvements in their houses, being at the rate of £6 per house. They also allowed, during the same time, £277 for making ditches. During the last twelve years they do not appear to have been making any improvements on the estate.

Present Condition of the Property.—Notwithstanding the allowance made for improving some of the houses on the estate, the majority of them are in bad order; they are particularly so in the townland of Stradgally, which is the worst land, and most over-populated part of the estate; many of the tenants seem very poor, and most of the farms are badly cultivated; some of the land requires draining, without which it cannot be much improved.

The evil practice of subdividing farms has prevailed very much on this estate, and has not been checked as it should have been. This, I think, is the chief cause of the poverty of so many of the tenants, and of the inferior state of the cultivation. It has also caused, as usual, the fields of the different holdings to be intermixed, in a way which is a serious loss to the tenants. In a report, which Mr. J. J. Byrne made to the Commissioners of Education, on this estate, in the year 1841, he states that the number of persons resident on the lands was much greater than they could support in comfort; and should the evil of over-population be suffered to increase, the lands would every day be getting worse. I do not find that this suggestion has been acted on as it should have been.

The evil of allowing arrears to accumulate is shown by the impoverished and neglected state of those holdings on which the largest arrears are due.

The townland of Terquin is separated from the other townlands. It is situate within a mile of the town, on the south-east. The soil of most of this townland is better than the rest of the estate. The houses on it also are better, and the tenants appear more comfortable.

Schools.—There is no schoolhouse on the estate, but from the vicinity of Cavan and other National schools, the tenants have an opportunity of getting their children educated.

Suggestions.—Before any improvement can be expected on this estate, some arrangement must be made for reducing the large arrears hanging over so many of the tenants. I would suggest that the same plan should be adopted which I have pointed out in my report on the Enniskillen School Estate; but whether that plan or some other be adopted, nothing, I think, can be clearer, than that while a tenant feels himself liable to be called on at any moment for a large arrear of rent, he will neither improve his land nor pay any rent he can avoid.

At the same time that some arrangement is made as to the existing arrears, the tenants must be given to understand that if the accruing rent is not punctually paid, steps will be at once taken to enforce it, and no tenant will be suffered to remain on the estate who does not pay the rent.

The present system of giving receipts on account should be discontinued, and receipts given up to a particular day, so that the tenants may know how they stand, and be relieved from the necessity of preserving all their old receipts.

Notice should be given that no tenant will be allowed, by will or otherwise, to subdivide his holding; and that no tenant will be allowed to transfer his holding without first having obtained the agent's permission, whose duty it would be to make him transfer it to the nearest adjoining tenant who is capable of managing it. In case of any violation of these rules, the tenant violating them should be ejected. Where draining is most needed, and the tenant unable to do it himself, I would suggest that money should be allowed him for

the purpose, and an addition made to his rent equal to five per cent. on the money so expended; of course it would be essential in such cases to watch that the money was honestly and judiciously expended. The estate should be frequently visited by the agent; and, besides, the bailiff should be held responsible for giving him notice of any violation of the rules laid down for the management of the estate.

It is absolutely necessary that a more vigilant and energetic system of management be pursued on this estate than has been done heretofore.

Raphoe Royal School Estate.

Extent.—This estate consists of twelve townlands and a large tract of mountain, in the county of Donegal, situate about five statute miles north-east of the town of Donegal; it contains 8,816A. 1R. 2P., statute measure, but of this 6,960A. 1R. 21P. are mountain.

Rent.—The annual rent of it, as returned in the rental, is £495 11*s.* 11*d.*

In 1816 it was valued by Messrs. Sherard, Brassington, and Greene, at £954 7*s.* 5*d.*, late Irish currency, equal to £884 13*s.*, present currency.

In 1846 it was valued by Mr. Rutledge at £543 15*s.* 8*d.*

The Griffith's old valuation is £498 4*s.* 11*d.*

Mr. Rutledge's valuation appears to me to be about the fair letting value of the property in its present state.

Arrears.—The arrears due up to 1st May, 1854, were about £600; but as this included all receipts up to 31st of March, 1856, when the last account was furnished, there were in fact nearly two years' more rent due. This account of arrears has been carried forward only from the year 1844, when Mr. Wray was appointed agent. It must also be observed that large sums were expended on improvements, as well as large allowances made to the tenants, during the years 1844 to 1851. That expenditure, together with the allowance to tenants, the poor rate, the tithe rent-charge, the bailiff's and the receiver's fees, exhausted the whole rent of the estate from 1844 to May, 1850, with the exception of £58 0*s.* 3*d.*; and from 1844 till March, 1855, the whole amount lodged to the credit of the Commissioners was only £570 8*s.* Thus, for eleven years, the net receipts have been equal to little more than one year's rent.

There are no leases on the property.

To understand the position of this estate it is necessary to refer to its past history.

It appears by the report of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland to the Lord Lieutenant, in the year 1820, that by "reason of the refractory disposition of the tenantry, they were unable to collect the rent."

The Commissioners tried various ways of managing the tenants, without success, and at length, in the end of the following year, they handed the management of the estate over to the Rev. James Irwin, the master of the Royal School of Raphoe, and his brother-in-law, Mr. Millar. These persons seem to have succeeded but little better, for it is stated in a subsequent report that the estate in their hands was in a state of total insubordination; Again, in the report made in the year 1846, the Commissioners state that "the Raphoe School "Estate, which, under the management of the masters for the time being, had been so long "remarkable for its wildness, and the poverty of the tenantry as well as of the soil, they "trusted would, in a short time, under their care, present a very different appearance, as they "had, under the management of an active resident agent, applied considerable sums in "improvements, by endeavouring to abolish the rundale system, by separating and squaring "farms, by reclaiming waste land, and by giving assistance to the tenants to enable them "to build a better class of cottages; and they were causing, under the superintendence of "their agent, a proper schoolhouse to be built on the estate for the benefit of the tenantry."

The agent here alluded to, Mr. Wray, resigned the agency in 1851.

It is evident from the map made in 1816, that the farms were then much intermixed, the fences crooked, and the houses more numerous than they are at present; the improvements made under the superintendence of the late agent, by which these evils were mitigated, must have benefited the estate; and if they are steadily carried out, the property will, in the course of some years, be made to yield a net income to the Commissioners of Education proportioned to its fair value, which it does not appear to have done heretofore.

The Census Returns show that in 1841, the population was 1,133, and in 1851 it was reduced 867. It is still, however, too numerous to be supported properly on the land, and it is the duty of the agent, for the sake of the people themselves as well as of the property, as far as he can, without acting harshly towards them, to endeavour gradually to consolidate the farms till they are of such a size that the tenants can live on them in comfort.

State of the Property.—The houses of the tenants differ very much in quality, about one-half of them are thatched cottages, moderately comfortable; but many of the others are very poor, and some of them are hovels of the worst kind. On part of the estate the land is of fair quality, and very susceptible of improvement; some of the tenants are taking advantage of this by draining and applying lime, which they have in abundance on the estate.

There is one tenant who had been in America, and returned with money; he has built a good slated house, and expended a considerable sum in fencing, draining, and taking stones out of his land, thus setting a very useful example to his neighbours; the majority of the tenants, however, have done little to improve their farms; they have the privilege of putting cattle and sheep on the large tract of mountain, and this is a great assistance to those who have stock to put on it; at the same time it makes them, in some degree, independent of the arable land, and induces them to neglect it.

School.—In the year 1846 the Commissioners of Education caused a schoolhouse to be

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The Commissioners of Education in Ireland—Raphoe Royal School Estate.

erected, and have since continued to pay the master £20 per annum, besides giving him a farm rent free. The agent states that the school was at first well attended, but for some years back the attendance fell off, and in the beginning of the present year it became so small that it was thought necessary to change the master. The present master was appointed in last April, and has given so much satisfaction to the people, that the school has rapidly increased; when I visited it there were fifty-six boys and forty-nine girls present; the master said that nearly one-third of the youngest children could only speak Irish, but that they were rapidly acquiring a knowledge of the English language. It is stated that the cause of the falling off in the attendance during the term of the late master was that he did not duly attend to his duty, being occupied with his farm and other business. It is better not to have the schoolmaster depending in any degree for his support on a farm; and there is a difficulty in not having this school subject to some regular inspection; at present it is not inspected, in consequence of not being under the care of either boards which send round inspectors.

The schoolroom is not sufficiently large to accommodate the number of pupils now attending. It is desirable to have a room added to the house for a girls' school, to have the schoolroom floor boarded, and to have a mistress to teach the girls. For the purpose of having the school duly inspected and supplied with school requisites, and also having a female teacher supplied, I would suggest that it should be placed under the care of the National Board of Education. The children are almost all Roman Catholics.

It is of the utmost importance for the improvement of the estate, that this school should be well conducted, as it is the only chance the children of the tenants have of getting education; and educating the children is the most likely way of improving the habits and character of the tenants.

The last rental of this estate furnished, is up to 1st May, 1854, whereas the other side of the account is brought down to March, 1856. This is irregular; the rental should be furnished up to the 1st November, 1855, as on the other estates. If this were done, the arrears would appear to be equal to nearly three years' rent. It is to be feared these arrears are accumulating rapidly, and something should be done, if possible, to prevent it.

It is difficult to lay down rules for an estate which has been so lately in a state of insubordination, but all possible means should be taken to avoid the accumulation of arrears, either by inducing the tenants to execute improvements on their farms equal to the amount they cannot pay in cash, or in some other way.

The successful management of an estate, situate as this is, entirely depends on the discretion, firmness, and constant attention of the local agent. There is no doubt that his duty, if properly discharged, is much more arduous than the duty of an agent generally is, and it is right he should receive the extra rate of remuneration which he does, viz., 10 per cent. on the rental. Where so much money has been expended on improvements, and where considerable progress has been made, it is to be hoped there will be no relaxation of the necessary care and attention on the part of those intrusted with its management, till the property is placed in a satisfactory state.

Carysfort Royal School Estate.

CARYSFORT ROYAL SCHOOL ESTATE.

This estate is situate in the county of Wicklow, about six miles west of Rathdrum.

It consists of the single townland of Sheanamore, containing 305A. 1R. 34P. of arable land, and 284A. 3R. 31P. of mountain, making in all 590A. 1R. 25P. statute measure.

The present rent is £140 1*s.* 6*d.*

The Ordnance Valuation is £153 9*s.*

The arrears returned on the last rental were £136 2*s.* 9*d.*, but the agent states that £40 of this arrears have since been liquidated.

There are no leases.

The Commissioners are in the habit of allowing the tenants liberally for whatever lime they bring on their farms each year; they have to bring the lime from a great distance.

The portion of this estate which is considered arable land, is a very light soil, and at an elevation of 650 feet above the sea level. It is consequently ill-adapted for tillage; besides, it is far from any market. It is at present occupied by thirteen tenants. Their dwellings are thatched cottages, and with one or two exceptions, as good as could be expected on such small and poor farms. They have the privilege of putting cattle and sheep on the mountain part of the property—the grass on it, however, is not of much value. One of the tenants, who is three years' in arrears, has his land in a totally exhausted state; and he must, I fear, be removed. The others seem to be cultivating their ground industriously, but from its elevated position they should break up less of it than they do.

Banagher Royal School Estate.

BANAGHER ROYAL SCHOOL ESTATE.

This estate is situate in the King's county, and consists of two parts. One called Boolinarig, is about a mile and a-half to the north of Parsonstown, the other comprises the townlands of Ballincurry and Derry, and is situate about four miles further from Parsonstown than Boolinarig.

The two parts contain 599A. 0R. 16P., statute measure; of this 211A. 1R. 8P. are deep bog.

The present rental is £164 10*s.* 7½*d.*

In 1816 it was valued by Messrs. Sherard, Brassington, and Greene, at £307 9*s.* 8*d.* late currency, equal to £283 16*s.* 7½*d.* present currency.

According to the general valuation of Ireland, the valuation is £180 15*s.*

The rental in 1842 was £260 3*s.* 5½*d.*, together with £10 12*s.* for the rent of bog lots,

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The Commissioners of Education in Ireland—Navan and Ballyroan Schools Estate.

School.—In 1851 a school was erected on the estate by the Board of Education. It is a commodious house, containing a schoolroom for boys, another for girls, and a dwelling-house for the master and mistress. This school is situate in the centre of the estate, and is calculated to confer great benefit on the tenants. It is, however, to be regretted, that it is not taken advantage of so much as it should be, for only fourteen boys and fourteen girls attended on the average during the last year.

As the management of this school was fully inquired into at the public court, held at Maryborough, it is unnecessary for me to report as to the causes which are said to prevent its being better attended.

Suggestions.—Mr. Hawksworth desires to have his lease renewed, and it is right that so good a tenant should have his lease renewed on fair terms; but it would be desirable to reserve out of it two or three acres of the ground adjoining the railway station for building purposes. The village of Mountrath is a mile and a-half distant from the station. The public would be accommodated, and the Cappaghloughlin estate improved, by the erection of an hotel and other buildings near the station; and if the land were offered to be let on building leases, it would most probably be taken for that purpose.

Connected with this endowment, there are 48A. 1R. 34P., statute measure, of land at the village of Ballyroan, in the Queen's county.

This land is held by lease at a rent of £30 per annum.

The Commissioners purchased the interest in this lease, in the year 1838, to get a good house, which was on the land, for a schoolhouse. The Rev. John Lyons, the master of the school, occupies the house; he also occupies 12A. 2R. 25P., statute measure, of the land adjoining the house, at a rent of £22 8*s.* 9*d.* per annum. The remainder of the land, with the exception of a few perches, is occupied by two tenants, who use it for meadow and grazing, at a rent of £34 0*s.* 11*d.*, thus making the whole rent received out of the land at Ballyroan £56 9*s.* 8*d.* per annum.

This land seems to be let at its full value. According to the general valuation of Ireland, the value, £58 10*s.*, including £16 5*s.* for the buildings.

The Commissioners have built a small house on an angle of the ground for the assistant-master of the school, who occupies it and a few perches of land about it, free of rent.

In addition to the lands just mentioned, there is a small piece of ground, about 2R. statute measure, in the village of Ballyroan, on which there are the ruins of a house. This is stated to have been the old schoolhouse, and the bit of ground attached to it is occupied by the assistant-master of the school.

Clonmel School Estate.

CLONMEL SCHOOL ESTATE.

This estate consists of the Townland of Lissanure, in the County of Tipperary, and is situate about five miles to the east of Templemore.

Extent.—According to the survey made in 1843, it contains 683A. 2R. 11P. statute measure, including 58A. 1R. 34P. of bog.

Rent.—The rent of the property as returned in the last rental was £392 4*s.* 10*d.*

Value.—This property was valued by Mr. Byrne at £578.

The new general valuation of it is £420 15*s.*

It appears by the rental of the year 1842, that when the Commissioners of Education got the management of this property on the termination of an old lease, the rent then paid by the occupying tenants was £600 15*s.* 11½*d.*

There can be no doubt that the present rental is below the fair letting value of the land. This is accounted for thus:—when the old lease expired in 1841, a part of the estate was let to a great number of poor tenants, who, when the years 1846 and 1847 came, were unable to pay their rent, and most of them had to give up their holdings. These holdings were re-let in 1849 and three following years, when the value of land was greatly depressed, and the land was in bad condition; at the same time a corresponding reduction was made to the other tenants. The fair letting value of the estate at present is probably about £500 per annum, but as leases for twenty-one years were made in 1851 and 1852 to Mr. M'Garry, of 275A. 1R. 19P. statute, at the rent of £160, the rent of that portion, of course, cannot be changed till the leases expire.

Leases.—There are no other leases on the property.

Arrears.—The rents were paid up to November, 1853, except the one half year, which it is usual to leave outstanding, but it has been seen already that, prior to the year 1850, a great number of the tenants had to give up their lands, being unable to pay the rent, and the arrears due by those persons were lost by the Commissioners; small sums were also given to several of them to assist them to emigrate.

The account of arrears on the estate is not correctly kept, for example, in the account up to the 1st November, 1851, the arrears then due are stated to be £423 15*s.* 2¾*d.*; and in the next account, for the year ending 1st November, 1852, the arrear on passing last account is set down as £65 11*s.* 10½*d.* This discrepance probably arose from striking off arrears due by tenants who were evicted, but no explanation is given of it in the account; this could not occur if the accounts were kept on a uniform and correct system.

Improvements.—When the Commissioners got into the management of Lissanure, it was occupied by fifty tenants; and as nearly two-thirds of it was occupied by two tenants, it follows that the remaining one-third was divided into forty-eight holdings, which were far too small to enable the tenants to live comfortably or pay their rent regularly. The place

of these forty-eight tenants is now occupied by only nine; the old cabins have been removed, and the surplus fences levelled; this must be regarded as a great improvement to the property.

Two or three large open drains have been made through the estate. These drains seem to have taken off the water from some of the low ground, but they are left in an unfinished state, and not kept in proper order.

Present State of the Property.—It has been stated that one tenant occupies 275A. 1R. 19P.: this is used entirely for grazing and meadow; the greater part of it is good pasture land. Mr. M'Garry does not reside on it; the only houses on it are two cottages, occupied by his herds, and some office houses.

Another tenant occupies 171A. 0R. 15P. On this portion there is a good dwelling-house and offices, and the farm and grounds are in excellent order. The most of the farm is kept for grazing, and is a good sheep pasture.

On the remainder of the townland the holdings are much smaller, but the farms are carefully cultivated. The houses, with the exception of the bailiff's, require improvement, but none of them are of the worst class of cottages.

The only suggestion I have to make as to this property is, that the holdings out of lease should be re-valued at a moderate letting value—not charging for any improvements recently made, and that the tenants should be called on to pay according to such valuation.

II. *Estates under the Management of the Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, Esq.*

The Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, Esq.—Southern Estates of the Governors.

SOUTHERN ESTATES OF THE GOVERNORS.

These estates are situate in the counties of Limerick and Tipperary. The Limerick portion is crossed by the Waterford and Limerick Railway; and the Pallas station, fourteen miles from Limerick, is on the estate. It consists of the townlands of Pallas, Lisheen, Drumneenbuoybeg, Garrane, Kilduff, Ballinlody, Tullow, Ballyhusty, Drumlara, Pollough, Gortavaley, Carrigeenagoonagh, Ballytarsna, Knockderk, and Clonabrogy, and containing 4,343A., 2R., 19P., statute, according to survey made by Sherrard, Brassington, and Greene, in 1818.

The portion of the estate in the county of Tipperary consists of several detached parcels of land, some of them, viz., Abbeylands and Rathsisseragh, adjoin the town of Tipperary; the townland of Solohodbeg is two and a-half miles to the north of it; and the remainder of the estate, being the townlands of Drumbane and Poolavarla or Gortaculrush, lie six miles to the west of Thurles. The whole estate in the county of Tipperary contains 3,037A. 2R. 28P., statute measure, according to survey by Armstrong in 1835. Thus, the entire of the southern estates contain 7,381A. 1R. 7P., statute.

According to the rental, to May, 1854, the gross amount of rent of the Limerick Estate was £3,829 0*s.* 4*d.*, and of the Tipperary, £1,813 5*s.* 8*d.*, making together £5,642 6*s.*, including receiver's fees.

In addition to the regular rents, there are sums received for stone sold from quarries on the estate, from the tolls of Pallas fair, and for turf banks. The receipts from these sources, for 1854, amounted to £188 11*s.* 11½*d.*; but they vary from year to year, and the agent expects an increase of from £100 to £200 per annum from the turf banks, in consequence of a new scale of letting recently introduced.

The Limerick Estate was valued by Sherrard, Brassington, and Greene, in 1818, at £4,258 1*s.* 7*d.*, late currency, equal to £3,930 10*s.* 8*d.* of the present currency.

This estate, exclusive of the townlands of Knockderk and Clonabroga, was valued by Mr. J. J. Byrne, in 1840, at £3,251 1*s.* 4*d.*; and if to this we add the present rent of Knockderk, Clonabroga, and premises in Nenagh, £480 17*s.*, we have the whole value of the Limerick Estate, £3,731 18*s.* 4*d.*

According to the late general valuation of Ireland, the value is £3,244 5*s.*, exclusive of railway.

The estate seems to be let at about its fair letting value; there is, however, one holding, containing 34A., 0R., 20P., plantation measure, occupied by the incumbent of the parish of Grean, for which he pays only £12 12*s.* per annum, about 7*s.* 6*d.* per acre, whereas it was valued by Mr. J. J. Byrne at £3 8*s.* per acre, so that he holds it at £102 per annum below its value. I do not find any thing in their charter which warrants the Governors in letting this part of the estate so far below its value; and the agent was not able to give any reason for it.

The Tipperary Estate was valued by Mr. Armstrong in 1835, at £1,940 14*s.* 2*d.*

According to the late Government valuation of Ireland, the value is £1,830 2*s.*

The portion of the Tipperary Estate called Solohodbeg, has been re-let in the present year, and the rent has been raised by £70 5*s.* 8½*d.*; this will make the whole of the Tipperary Estate in future £1,883 11*s.* 4½*d.*

Nearly ten Irish acres of fine land, adjoining the town of Tipperary, are occupied by the master of the school rent free; the rest of the Tipperary Estate seems to be let at its fair letting value.

Arrears.—According to the rental, up to 1854, the arrears due on the estate only amounted to £99 11*s.* 11½*d.*; but arrears were struck off by order of the Board, dated 14th November, 1844, to the extent of £5,329 12*s.* 1*d.*, together with £2,642 4*s.* 5*d.*, stated to be arrears on the county of Clare Estate. There does not appear to have been any rent received out

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of the Clare Estate for many years; and after November, 1844, it does not appear in the rental. Between the years 1847 and 1853, arrears were allowed, or struck off, at different times, to the amount of about £4,900; and again, by an order of the Board, dated 12th April, 1854, arrears to the extent of £2,297 6*s.* 1½*d.* were struck off. In addition to this large amount of arrears, which was struck off, abatements were made to numbers of the tenants between the years 1847 and 1850, amounting to £1,133 11*s.* 1*d.*; and, during the same period, allowances were made to the tenants for improvements, and money expended on draining and other works, to the extent of upwards of £1,200, and £1,289 10*s.* 0¼*d.* was expended on the Drumbane quarry. This expenditure is exclusive of the £3,250 borrowed from the Government for drainage. I must observe that I have collected these figures from the agent's accounts, as furnished to the Governors, but it is difficult to discover from them the exact amount of arrears which have been struck off from time to time, as the amount of arrears taken credit for in the account of the late agent, Mr. Galway, up to May, 1850, does not correspond with the amount charged in Mr. Kearney's first account; and, again, the balance due at foot of the account for the year ending May, 1852, does not correspond with the balance charged at the commencement of the following account. There are observations written across the accounts, which give some explanation of these discrepancies; but I have not been able to fully reconcile them, and, certainly, the accounts have not been kept with the uniformity and clearness they should have been. There seems no doubt, however, that the sums mentioned above have been struck off, and when to these amounts and allowances are added the sums paid for tithe rent-charge, poor rates, &c., during the years 1845 to 1850, it will appear that during those years the net receipts lodged in the bank to the credit of the Governors did not exceed half the gross rental of the property.

The chief cause of this heavy loss was the practice which formerly prevailed of letting these lands on leases, without preventing the lessee from subletting; the result was, that the immediate lessees of the Governors in most cases sublet the land at a profit rent, and the subtenants again had occasionally numbers of cottier tenants under them, so that a great part of the estate got into the hands of a numerous and impoverished tenantry. The Governors, for the last fifteen years, have been endeavouring to remedy this state of things; but it could not be done hastily or without considerable loss, and that loss was of course further increased in years 1845 to 1850, in consequence of the failure of the crops.

Tenure.—The rental does not specify the tenure by which the different tenants hold: but the agent states that only three or four of them have leases. The greater part of the Limerick Estate was relet in 1840; the majority of the tenants did not choose to incur the expense of taking out leases, probably being confident that the Governors would treat them as if they had leases, and not disturb them during the term of twenty years from the date of such re-letting, provided they continued to pay their rents then agreed for.

In letting the lands, the Governors seem to have had in view the provisions of their charter, which are as follow:—The Governors are prohibited from making any lease or conveyance of the land for more than twenty-one years, whereupon the highest yearly rent, or more, which any tenant or occupier of the lands did pay at any time within seven years next before the making of such lease shall not be reserved. They are also prohibited from taking fines; and it is directed, that "For the better preserving and improving the full rent, the lands to be demised shall always be viewed before any lease thereof is made." Accordingly, in 1840, before the lands were re-let they were viewed by a very competent valuer, and the re-letting, with the exception of the part held by the incumbent of Grean (already alluded to), appears to have been based on the valuation then made. This mode of letting land for agricultural purposes is well calculated to secure the objects of the trusts, provided that when permanent and valuable improvements are made by a tenant, fair allowance is made for it at the re-letting, and provided that a good tenant can feel confident of getting a preference for land at a fair rent, so that it will be his interest to keep his farm in good order until the expiration of his term; and, on the other hand, where leases are granted, care should be taken to insert in them such provisions as will prevent the tenant from injuring the property. The printed form of lease in use on this estate (a copy of which is sent herewith) is objectionable on two grounds—it contains no covenant against sub-letting, and no provisions to prevent a tenant from abusing his farm and leaving it exhausted at the end of his term. It was, probably, in consequence of the first of these defects that sub-letting has prevailed on the estate to such an extent as it formerly did; and the evil consequences of the latter omission in the form of lease are strikingly illustrated in the case of a farm let to the late Rev. R. Lloyd.

That farm is considered the best land on the estate; and when Sherrard, Brassington, and Greene valued the estate, so far back as 1818, they remarked on it, "That great care should be taken in the selection of a tenant for it, as many persons would be found to propose an extravagant rent for it, with the view of breaking the land, as ten pounds per acre, and upwards, could be had for nearly the entire ground possessed by Mr. Lloyd for a few years; but it would be afterwards thrown up in a worn and exhausted state." In 1840, when Mr. Byrne valued the property, he made a precisely similar observation on this holding. The lease made to Mr. Lloyd will expire in about four years, and his representatives have lately commenced letting it in con-acre, at some £10 or £12 per acre. If this practice should be continued till the end of the lease, the land will be lessened in value for many years to come. The agent stated that he had represented this matter to the Board; but there seemed to be no remedy, as the covenant in the lease only provided against the breaking up of meadow.

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entire townland of Pullough, and seems to have improved it by draining. A Mr. Apjohn also occupies a large tract as a grazing farm, and appears an improving tenant. I have already, when remarking on the form of lease, noticed one of the best grazing farms on the estate, which is now broken up, and, it is to be feared, will be much injured when the lease expires. On the whole, the Limerick Estate is evidently improving, and with the same system of management which has been pursued latterly, I have no doubt it will continue to improve.

My attention was called to the mode of letting the turf banks on this estate. The practice was to charge a small rent, barely sufficient to pay the expense of management. As, however, many of the tenants violated the rules, and made a practice of selling turf, the Board, at the suggestion of the agent, has laid down new rules for the management of the turf banks, by which a fair rent is now charged for them; this the agent expects will increase the income of the property by from £100 to £200 a-year. This seems to be the fairest and best way of letting the turf banks, and prevents them from being rapidly exhausted. It is, no doubt, equivalent to a slight rise of rent on the tenants; but from the moderate rate at which the land is let, I do not think they have just reason to complain of the alteration in the method of letting the banks.

There is a school at Pallas, founded and supported by the Governors; but at present it is badly attended. When I visited it, there were only ten children of both sexes present, and four of these were the children of the master. There are, however, two other schools in the neighbourhood, one in the parish of Doon, and the other a National School, so that the tenants have ample opportunity of having their children educated.

The portion of the Tipperary Estates called Abbeylands, immediately adjoins the town, and is land of superior quality. The Tipperary School is on it, and the Board of Ordnance has taken a part of it for barrack ground; the Poor Law Guardians have also taken a part of it for a farm attached to the poorhouse, and a small part of it has been sold to the Waterford and Limerick Railway Company, for their station; four acres and a-half, which, according to Moland's survey (made in 1711) belonged to the Governors, are now held by Mr. Smith Barry.

The division called Rathsisseragh lies on the east side of the town; it contains 57A. 2R. 6P.; one tenant occupies about twenty-seven acres of it, and the rest is divided between eight tenants, and used chiefly as market gardens; nearly eight acres, which, according to Moland's survey, formed part of this denomination, and then belonged to the Governors, are now held by the tenants of the Duke of Devonshire.

Solohodbeg, as has been stated, is two and a-half miles to the north of Tipperary, and the Great Southern and Western Railway passes through it. In 1835, this, as well as the rest of the Tipperary Estate, was surveyed and valued by Mr. Armstrong. Previous to that year, the greater part of Solohodbeg was held by middlemen, and let by them to the occupying tenants, at a rent thirty-three per cent. higher than what the Governors, acting on Armstrong's valuation, afterwards let it for to the occupying tenants. As might be expected, the tenants had got into arrear, and their farms were generally exhausted and badly cultivated. The Governors have since expended a large sum on draining the land, which it appears by Armstrong's report, was then much required. In consequence of this, the land was so much improved, that on the re-letting which has just been made of it, the rent has been raised £70 5*s.* 8½*d.* per annum, being about ten per cent. on the previous rental. The increased rent, the agent states, will about pay the instalments payable to Government on the money expended on draining the property, so that the Governors will have the debt paid off in twenty-one years by this means, and have a clear increase in their income of £70 per annum. Some of the tenants on this townland have made great improvements on their farms, and generally the land is carefully cultivated, and the rents punctually paid up.

There is a valuable limestone quarry on this part of the estate.

The townlands of Drumbane and Poolavarla are very inferior in quality of soil to the other parts of the southern estate, the best of it is light inferior land, and portions of it are heathy and mountainous. Prior to the time of Mr. Armstrong's valuation in 1835, it had been let to a middle-man, who had let it to a numerous tenantry, at rents much higher than it has since been let at. Mr. Armstrong describes the tenants at that time as being extremely poor, their houses in wretched order, and their farms badly cultivated, they were also much in arrear. Since that time the condition of this townland has been much improved; the number of persons living on it is diminished from 908 in 1835 to 715 in 1851; a large sum of money, as already stated, was expended by the Governors in draining and other works, and allowances were made to the tenants for improvements. A few of the tenants have good slated houses, and their farms are in excellent order; the houses of the majority are thatched cottages, fairly comfortable, and their farms show some marks of improvement. The Rev. Mr. Peacock has taken a farm of upwards of 100 plantation acres, which had formerly been held by several tenants, and he is cultivating it in a manner very superior to that pursued on the neighbouring holdings, and, thus setting a useful example. There is a valuable quarry of sandstone on Drumbane: the Governors expended a considerable sum a few years ago in making a road into it, and sinking a drain to take the water off it. The stone is disposed of by the agent according to a fixed scale of prices; but the demand of course fluctuates considerably, and it seems doubtful whether the Governors will be repaid for the large amount they have expended on it.

In concluding my report on the Southern Estates, I think it right to observe, that since the year 1850, those estates have been under the care of Mr. Kearney, a gentleman who

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Reports of the Inspector of Estates.

J. W. Murland, Esq.

The Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, Esq.—Galway Estate.

of a perpetuity for the lessee, as there is much trouble and expense attending the frequent renewals required, and there is besides the chance of the property being lost by an oversight. It appears by the evidence* given on the subject in the Court held at Galway, that the disadvantages of such a tenure are much felt, though it was admitted that the Governors had heretofore in one or two cases, not taken advantage of a lapse on the part of the tenants. The principle of the "Leasehold Conversion Act," 12 and 13 Vic., c. 105, applies to these leases, and there is no reason why it should not be so amended (if necessary), as to include them.

The portions of the estate not let for building purposes are, with a few exceptions, to be noticed presently, let on leases for twenty-one years, and most of these lands have been re-let within the last six years. The practice with respect to them appears to be, to have the lands valued at the expiration of a lease, and to grant a new one to the former lessee at the fair letting value of the land, not charging for buildings erected by the tenant at his own expense; and in some cases very valuable houses have been erected on lands which were held by lease for only twenty-one years, confiding in the justice of the Governors. It would, I think, encourage the tenants to improve, and also increase the funds for the schools if the Governors had power to grant building leases, under proper restrictions, on all their lands.

For agricultural purposes, the twenty-one years' leases I think are very suitable; but I beg to refer to some remarks on the form of these leases, and on the leasing powers of the Governors, in my report on the Southern Estates.

The lands held by tenants from year to year, are immediately adjoining the town and Lough Attalia; and the Governors, at the last lettings, prudently retained control of these lands, as they may, in the course of a few years, become valuable as building ground.

Improvements.—The Governors do not appear to have expended any money in improving the Galway Estate, except £56 10*s.* 6*d.* expended on building walls, and £40 allowed for making a road; but valuable improvements have been made by the tenants at their own cost.

Newtown-Smith is let as building ground, the Fair Green and the greater part of Bohermore are let in the same way. Some of the best streets in Galway, and also some of the best buildings, are erected on this part of the property.

Forthill, which is situated between the town and Lough Attalia, has the Erasmus Smith's school erected on it, and 26A. 3R. 22P. of land about the school are occupied by the the master; the remainder of Forthill is held by tenants from year to year, with the exception of four small holdings, which are let on twenty-one years' leases; before the year 1848 it was all let on twenty-one years' leases. The lessees had allowed a number of very poor cabins to be built on it. When the leases expired, the Governors made arrangements, by which they got possession of these cabins, and had most of them removed. This denomination is well suited for building ground, and must become very valuable if the town of Galway improves.

The remaining denominations, viz., Glenanayle, Ballybanebeg, Ballybanemore, Parkmore, Ballybrit, Rinmore, Roscam, and Murragh, are let to seven tenants, exclusive of sixty-one acres of Rinmore, which is let to the Board of Ordnance as a site for proposed barracks.

It will be seen that the holdings are large. One of the tenants, P. M. Lynch, pays upwards of £850 a-year rent. There are no arrears due by any of these tenants, and some of them have made very valuable improvements. Two of them, Messrs Joyce and Lynch, have not only very much improved their land, but have also erected handsome dwelling-houses, with office-houses, &c., such as no man would erect on a twenty-one years' lease, unless he had great confidence that when his lease expired he would be fairly dealt with.

Parts of the estate are very rocky, and the limestone is generally near the surface. When the land is free from rocks, the qualities of the soil are much varied, parts being thin and poor; but the greater part is very good sheep pasture.

In each of the townlands there are a number of sub-tenants, and though there are not so many as there were a few years ago, still the number is considerable. According to the tenement valuation, there are on Roscam twenty-six sub-tenants holding small farms; on Murragh, there are twenty-two sub-tenants, eight of these holding small farms, the remaining fourteen, only houses; on Ballybanebeg there are ten sub-tenants—most of them holding small farms; on Glenanayle there are nine tenants holding houses and gardens. On Ballybanemore there are twelve sub-tenants with farms, and six having only houses without any land attached; on Ballybrit there are eight sub-tenants, six of them having farms; on Parkmore there are six sub-tenants; on Rinmore there are seventeen sub-tenants having houses and land—thus, making in all 110 sub-tenants on these lands. They generally reside in thatched cabins, and some of their cabins are in bad order. As far as I have been able to discover, there has been no restraint put upon sub-letting.

The Westmeath Estate.

THE WESTMEATH ESTATE.

This estate consists of the lands of Kilpatrick, situated about two miles from Mullingar. The Royal Canal and Midland Great Western Railway pass through it. It contains, according to Sherrard's survey, 767A. 2R. 32P. statute measure, including 268A. 2R. 21P. of bog, and is at present let for £413 7*s.* 4*d.* per annum, including receiver's fees. The value of this townland, according to the new general valuation, is £389 5*s.*, excluding the value of railway and canal. It is correctly described by Mr. Sherrard as an excellent tract of ground, and no doubt it is very moderately let.

* Evidence 5918

It appears by the rental there are no arrears due on this property. It is held by two tenants on lease for twenty-one years, from 1st November, 1848.

The holdings on it are large, one of the tenants paying about £308 a-year rent, and the other £105. They have their farms in good order. The owner of the larger farm is at present building a new house; he uses his land chiefly for grazing. All the bog portion of the property is included in his holding, and most of it is comparatively unproductive; but he has improved it a little by making some drains; and if the level of the Belvedere Lake be lowered, as it is likely to be, this land can be further improved.

THE SLIGO ESTATE.

The Sligo Estate.

This estate consists of four detached parcels of land, two of them within a mile of the town of Sligo, and the remaining portion—tracts of mountain—distant about five miles from Sligo. The two portions of the estate near Sligo contain, according to the survey made in 1711 by Moland, 278A. 0R. 32P. statute measure, and the mountain tracts, 1,942A. 0R. 29P. There does not appear to be any recent survey of the Sligo property, except a rough sketch of the mountains. According to the Ordnance Survey, the two portions of the estate near Sligo, contains 284A. 0R. 7P. There appears to be some encroachment on the mountain part of the estate. The estate, as laid down by Moland, is coloured blue on the Ordnance map sent herewith; but it will be seen that dotted lines, representing the present boundary are within the old boundary; the value, however, of the ground intervening is very trifling, as it is rough and high mountain.

The present rent of the estate, including receiver's fees, is £426 9*s.*, of which £279 9*s.* is for the parts adjacent to Sligo, and £147 for the tracts of mountain.

According to Griffith's valuation, the parts near Sligo are valued at £294 10*s.* 7*d.*, and the mountain parts at £91 6*s.* 6*d.*, making a total of £385 17*s.* 1*d.* Before the last letting, the portions of the estate near the town of Sligo were let at £432 17*s.* 8*d.*, which was £153 8*s.* 8*d.* more than the present rent. The former rent seems to have been rather high, and the present too low. The latter is to be accounted for by the time at which the present leases were made, in 1851, when the value of land was very much depressed. The leases are for twenty-one years. There are no arrears due on the Sligo Estate; but for the years 1847 to 1850, some losses were sustained by part of it being untenanted.

Present State of the Property.—The townland called Townaphubble, which lies to the south of Sligo, at the distance of about three-quarters of a mile, is well enclosed, and is all held by one tenant. Considering the quality of the ground, and its proximity to the town, the present tenant has a valuable interest in it. The denominations called Clonserry and Farrannacardy, lie to the north-east of the town, adjoining the demesne of the Right Hon. John Wynne, who held them until the year 1849, when his lease expired; he now holds only a portion of Clonserry, which lies into his demesne, and the remainder is let to two tenants. Mr. Wynne improved this part of the estate, and he drained and planted some of it, which must have been waste before.

The tracts of mountain are held by Sir Robert Gore Booth, by a lease for twenty-one years, made in 1839. They are mostly high mountains, and chiefly valuable for the right of shooting on them. There is, however, at the foot of the mountain called Keelogyboy, a piece of rough land, partly arable and partly pasture, let by Sir Robert to eight or nine tenants. The Governors were fortunate in having so good a tenant as Sir Robert for this mountain district, as they escaped the losses which they must have sustained if they had been dealing directly with the poor tenants during the trying years of 1845 to 1850.

THE KING'S COUNTY ESTATE.

The King's County Estate.

This estate consists of the townland of Ballywilliam, in the barony of Ballybrit, and contains 300 acres, or thereabouts. Out of this estate, the Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith receive a fee-farm rent of £25, late Irish currency, equal to £23 1*s.* 6½*d.* present currency. It is stated that the Governors have not in their possession any map or valuation of these lands.

THE CALVERTSTOWN SCHOOL ESTATE.

The Calvertstown School Estate.

The farm of Pillsworth and lands of Lacken, in county of Westmeath, which constitute this estate, do not form any part of the estates of the Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, Esq., but the management of them has been intrusted to the Governors by the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests, for the benefit of the Calvertstown Schools; and as the rent is received by Mr. Hunt, the agent of the Western Estates, and the accounts returned with his other accounts, it is thought right to mention it here. The only information I have received concerning it is, that the rent is a fee-farm rent of £93 3*s.* 1*d.* per annum, and that the Governors have no map or valuation of the property.

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J. W. Murland, Esq.

The Incorporated Society for promoting English Protestant Schools in Ireland.

III. *Estates of the Incorporated Society in Dublin, for Promoting English Protestant Schools in Ireland.*

The estates belonging to this society, or out of which it receives rent-charges, are very numerous, but the majority of them are small. In addition to the Ranelagh Estates and the Pococke Estates there are thirty-six different properties included in what is called the General Rental of the Incorporated Society. The rent of the Ranelagh Estates for the year ending the 1st May, 1855, amounted to £1,831 2*s.* 9*d.*; the rent of the Pococke Estates, for the same period, was £772 8*s.* 7*d.*; and the rent of all the other properties included in the general rental was £5,167 19*s.* 1*d.*, making together £7,771 10*s.* 5*d.* The gross rental, as just stated, has been increased, however, since May, 1855, by £54 per annum, received for the police barrack in Dundalk, which was unlet at that time; but from this must be deducted the rents, head-rents, &c., payable out of several of these properties, amounting to £1,393 8*s.* 9*d.*, besides £153 16*s.* 1*d.* payable for tithe rent-charges, and £221 14*s.* 3*d.* payable annually for renewal fines and fees on the Pococke Estates, making a total of £1,768 19*s.* 1*d.*

As a large portion of the property is let on perpetual leases, or consists of rent-charges, the annual income is not liable to much fluctuation.

There are several of the properties of which the society has no maps, and of others there are detached maps made at different times, and on different scales. The maps of the Ranelagh Estates, made in 1787 by Mr. Sherrard, are valuable old maps; but, of course, the property must be much changed since they were made. The society should procure good maps of all its property, as it is impossible, without them, to guard against loss, or to manage it satisfactorily.

The entire of the estates belonging to the Incorporated Society are managed by one agent, Mr. Pidgeon, who seems to discharge his duties efficiently. His rentals and statements of accounts submitted annually to a committee of the society appear to be clear and accurate, and have been regularly audited. Mr. Pidgeon keeps a rent blotter, which shows the exact date of each receipt of rent. He also keeps a cash book, which shows on the one side all his receipts, and on the other all payments for the society connected with their estates, as well as the lodgments in the bank. This latter book is not audited; but, if it were placed before the committee, at its monthly meetings, and examined, it would enable the committee to see that due diligence was used in collecting the rents, and also that the money in the hands of the agent, from time to time, was duly lodged in bank, to the credit of the society.

I do not make these suggestions because I entertain any doubt that the present agent faithfully discharges his duty; but in such large estates it seems to me the society should have this check in addition to the auditing of the annual accounts.

The rentals and annual accounts of the Ranelagh Estates and the Pococke, are kept perfectly distinct from those of what are called the General Estates of the Incorporated Society. I will now report upon each separately.

Athlone and Roscommon.—Ranelagh Institutions Estates.

ATHLONE AND ROSCOMMON.—RANELAGH INSTITUTIONS ESTATES.

This is the largest estate under the management of the Incorporated Society. It consists of the tithe rent-charge of thirteen parishes in the counties of Roscommon and Galway, also of lands in the county of Roscommon, together with lands and houses in the town of Athlone. In the year 1786, after the management of this property was intrusted to the Incorporated Society, it was surveyed and maps made of it by the late Mr. Sherrard. On these maps there are several lots of ground in the town of Athlone, marked as having at one time belonged to the estate, but having ceased to do so when that survey was made. The rental of this estate for the year ending 1st May, 1855, was £1,831 2*s* 9*d.*, exclusive of renewal fines; of this amount the sum of £663 9*s.* 1*d.* was received for tithe rent-charge. This latter seems more troublesome to collect than tithe rent-charges generally are, as it is payable by a great number of properties; and, owing to many properties having changed owners of late in that part of the country, the agent states that he has frequently had a difficulty in finding out the person to whom he should apply for the rent-charge: thus the arrears amount to, at present, £447 16*s.* 7*d.*, which is larger than it should be under ordinary circumstances.

The lands in the county of Roscommon comprise several detached denominations, but are all within a few miles of Athlone, except the farm attached to the old charter school, near the town of Roscommon. They contain, according to survey made in 1786, by Sherrard, 6,006A. 0R. 35P. plantation measure, which is equal to 9,729A. 0R. 13P., statute measure, together with 64A. 3R. 6P. statute, attached to the Roscommon school. Of this, 3,012A. 2R. 22P., plantation measure, are described by Sherrard's map, as bog and unprofitable land. By far the greater part of these lands is let on leases of lives renewable for ever, made by the late Lord Ranelagh about one hundred and sixty years ago, and the rent reserved by these lands is, of course, very much below the present value.

Thus the lands of Clonowen and Bealnamulla, containing, according to the rental, 3,155A. 2R. 15P., statute measure, were let for ever, by lease made in 1687, at £65 2*s.* per annum.

Callownamanagh and Bonaribba, containing 485A. 2R. 33P., were, by lease of lives renewable for ever, made in 1680, let at £7 5*s.* 5*d.* per annum.

Lisnagabroth, containing 377A. 0R. 35P., was let by lease of lives renewable for ever, made in 1700, at the yearly rent of £9 13*s.* 10*d.*

Cloonykill, containing 272A. 3R. 35P., was let by lease of lives renewable for ever, made in 1680, at the yearly rent of £7 7*s.* 8*d.*

Clonarke, containing 3,293A. 1R. 36P., was let by lease of lives renewable for ever, made in 1679, at the yearly rent of £23 1*s.* 6*d.*

Bigmeadow and some other lands adjoining the town of Athlone, containing 216A. 0R. 5P., were let by lease of lives renewable for ever, made in 1704, at the yearly rent of £23 13*s.* 6*d.*

With respect to these lands the only duty which the society and their agent have to perform is to collect the rents.

There are, however, two townlands—viz., Rooskagh and Gortacusan—which are let to tenants who hold from year to year under the society. There is also some land adjoining the town of Athlone held in the same way on a terminable lease. These lands have required, and appear to have received, a good deal of attention from the agent during the last few years. Rooskagh, until the year 1850, was let to a middleman for £120, and when the society got it into its possession it found it occupied by forty-seven tenants, living for the most part in wretched cabins, and very poor. The number of tenants has since been reduced, though it is still larger than the land can properly support. More than the half of the townland is bog, the remainder is very light land. The houses of the tenants are poor, and most of them in bad order, and built in a sort of village, away from the farms to which they belong; this, of course, is very inconvenient and unprofitable for their owners. It will be desirable to take some steps to have suitable houses erected on the farms as soon as they are adjusted, and made of a reasonable size. The rent of Rooskagh is now £229 6*s.* 5*d.* a year.

Gortacusan is situate near the former townland, and is much smaller. It appears, like it, to have been let formerly to a middleman, and to have been very much over-populated with poor tenants; there were fourteen tenants on it; there are now only three, the others having voluntarily left at the time of the failure in the potato crop; one of the present tenants has a tolerably large holding. The society have built a comfortable house and erected fences for him.

There is a school, kept by a poor man, in a half ruinous house in Rooskagh, which is largely attended. This school is entirely supported by the poor people themselves. As there is no other school within reach of their children, it would be a great advantage to them to have a better one established.

Of the land adjoining the town of Athlone, seventy-four acres are held by the Board of Ordnance, at a rent of £268 10*s.* 6*d.* a-year, and on this ground the barracks and fortifications are constructed.

The remainder of the land near the town, amounting to about ninety-eight acres, together with thirty-two acres of bog, is held by nine tenants, on terminable leases.

Most of the town plots consist of houses and premises, let for ever; there are also some town plots held on terminable leases, and some held by yearly tenants. The agent states that there is only one of these on which any considerable increase of rent is to be expected. The lease of this will terminate in two years, and then a rise of about £50 a-year may be looked for.

KILKENNY.—POCOCKE INSTITUTION ESTATES.

Kilkenny.—Pococke Institution Estates.

These estates consist of the lands of Kilronan, in the county of Waterford, and of several detached pieces of land and premises in the county of Kilkenny, containing, together, 1,147A. 2R. 5P. statute measure, as stated by the agent, and producing the annual rent of £744 14*s.* 9*d.* There is also a perpetual rent-charge of £27 13*s.* 10*d.* issuing out of the lands of Brownstown, in the county of Kilkenny, thus making the total annual income belonging to the Pococke Institution amount to £772 8*s.* 7*d.*; but this is subject to large deductions for head-rent, £131 8*s.* 3½*d.*; for, renewal fines, £221 14*s.* 3*d.*; and for tithe rent-charge, £49 5*s.* 10*d.*; making a total of £402 8*s.* 4½*d.*

The townland of Kilronan, in the county of Waterford, is let for £428 17*s.* 1*d.* The Government valuation of it is £373 5*s.* It seems at present to be fairly let; but taking into consideration improvements, which have nearly in all cases been made by the society on the northern portion of it, the scale of letting on the southern appears higher.

The Society has expended, during the last twelve years, £687 3*s.* 9½*d.* on improvements on this property; of this sum, £399 3*s.* 6*d.* has been expended on farm buildings, and the remainder on draining, fencing, &c. The money appears to have been judiciously expended, and to have increased considerably the value of the property, as well as the comfort of the tenants. William Barron's holding is very susceptible of improvement; part of it lies low; and in order to drain this it is necessary that a main drain should be sunk through it and the adjoining ground, which is equally low. It is stated that, in order to effect this, the agent made application to the owners, asking them each to contribute, jointly, his portion of the funds necessary, and that the society would also contribute their portion towards it. The owners refused. Until this is done, no thorough draining can be effected on this part of the property.

There are now only eight holdings on the lands; on four of these there are good slated houses and offices, and on three of the others there are comfortable thatched cottages, two of which have slated out-offices attached to them. A tenant's holding, from which he emigrated, has been divided amongst three others; these have levelled the old fences and made new ones in their place, which have had the effect of squaring their holdings and rendering them more compact.

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There are some plantations on the property; these not only improve its appearance, but also afford shelter for cattle, which in some places is much required.

There are two national schools (a male and female) adjoining this townland; both are stated to be well attended.

The rents of this property are punctually paid. The tenantry seems comfortable and respectable.

There are maps of this townland, made in 1820 and in 1840; but from the improvements which have taken place on it, and from the consolidation of farms, these are now comparatively useless.

Loughnacush and Cooleshalbeg, containing 103A. 3R. 19P. (statute), are detached pieces of ground in the county Kilkenny, let for £71 5*s.* 9*d.* and £45 6*s.* 9*d.* respectively, on twenty-one years' leases.

Bishopsknock contains 27A. 0R. 9P., and is let to a yearly tenant at £9 18*s.* 6*d.* per annum. The Government valuation of it is £8 3*s.*

Bishopsland contains 186A. 1R. 20P., and is let to the Right Honourable W. F. Tighe, for twenty years, at a rent of £40 3*s.* 2*d.* The Government valuation of it is £31 9*s.* per annum. At the town of Kilkenny there are some premises producing £17 per annum.

The lands of Grove were left to the Pococke Institution by Miss Gorman. They are situated in the county Kilkenny, and are stated by the agent to contain 297A. 3R. 34P. (statute), and are let to two tenants, at a rent of £132 3*s.* 6*d.* There is no map of these lands.

General Estates.

GENERAL ESTATES.

There are thirty-six properties included in the general rental of the Incorporated Society, as has been already stated. The gross annual rent of these amounts to £5,167 19*s.* 1*d.*; but out of this sum there are head-rents and rent-charges to be deducted, amounting to £1,109 18*s.* 4*d.*, thus leaving the net annual rent £4,058 0*s.* 9*d.* The total contents of the different properties, as furnished in agent's return, are 6,288A. 2R. 22P. (statute).

The whole arrears, as appears by the rental to May, 1855, amounted to £284 10*s.* 1½*d.*, and this was all, except a mere trifle, due out of two holdings; one of these holdings is on the Rogerson's Cork estate, on which the arrears accrued in consequence of the holding being the subject of a suit in Chancery. This arrear, the agent states, has been lately paid off. The other holding, on which there was an arrear of £161 10*s.* 6*d.*, is on Nicholson's estate, in county Sligo. In this case the tenant has a cross claim for head-rent, and the matter is now in the hands of the society's solicitor.

The following are the several estates included in the General Rental:—

1. *Rogerson's Cork Estate.*—The annual rent is £887 17*s.* 2½*d.* A small part of this estate, producing £11 1*s.* 8½*d.* per annum, is in the town of Kinsale, all the rest of it consists of houses and premises in the city of Cork, about seven-eighths of it are let on leases of 999 years, the remainder on leases for short terms. There is a map of this estate. It is liable to a quit rent of £12 2*s.* 4*d.*

2. *Rogerson's Dublin Estate.*—The annual rent is £768 10*s.* 4*d.*, subject to head rents amounting to £31 9*s.* A portion of the estate, containing 205A. 0R. 27P. (statute), and producing about £440 a-year, is situate in or adjacent to the village of Glasnevin, and was for the most part let in perpetuity by the Rogerson family before it came into the possession of the society. The rest of this estate consists of houses in the city of Dublin, let for terms of years, at about their present value. There is no map of this estate.

3. *Killinchy Estate.*—The rent of this estate is £314 19*s.* 6*d.*, subject to £24 2*s.* 6*d.* for head rent. It consists of 363A. 3R. 17P. (statute), being part of the townland of Killinchy, in the county of Down. The Ordnance valuation of it is £307 5*s.* It is let to seventeen tenants, two of whom have leases for twenty-one years; the others are yearly tenants. They are all said by the agent to be industrious, and it appears by the rental that they pay their rents punctually. The society has a good map of the Killinchy estate, made by Messrs. Brassington and Gale, in 1849.

4. *Dean Stewart's Estate.*—Dean Stewart's estate (as it is named in the rental) consists of the townlands of Rathiddy and Ardpatrick, in the county of Louth, containing 360A. 0R. 31P. (statute). The annual rent of this property for the year ending 1st May, 1855, was £405 2*s.* 6*d.*, but to this must be added the rent of the police barrack, in Dundalk, which was unlet at May, 1855, but is now let for £54 per annum, which now makes the total rental £459 2*s.* 6*d.*, subject to a quit rent of £1 19*s.* 8*d.*

The value of the lands, according to the Government valuation, is £360 per annum. There were no arrears due on this property at May, 1855, and the society has not expended any money on improving it. There is one tenant who holds 114A. 0R. 3P., of Ardpatrick, at a rent of £160 0*s.* 9*d.* per annum. On this farm there is a good house and offices, and some old plantations; this holding is chiefly used as pasture, and is held by lease for thirty-one years; the remainder of the land is held by seventeen tenants. The majority of the holdings are necessarily small, but the houses of the tenants, with the exception of three, are comfortable, and the land pretty well cultivated. The agent states that on this, as well as on the other estates of the society, when the tenants hold from year to year,

the rule against sub-letting and dividing of farms is strictly enforced, and when the holdings were very small, they were in existence long before he was intrusted with the management of the estate. I examined several of the receipts given to the tenants for their rent, and found them properly filled, and corresponding in every respect with the rental.

5. *The Farra Estate.*—The annual rent of this property for the year ending May, 1855, was £383 13*s.* 6*d.*, subject to a deduction for head rent of £50 16*s.* 1½*d.* It comprises the townlands of Rathaniska, and Rathbennett, in the county of Westmeath, and contains 467A. 3R. 24P., according to the map made in 1845.

The Government valuation of this property, including the value of the schoolhouse belonging to the society, is £423 14*s.*

It is occupied by twenty yearly tenants, and the only arrear due on it was £1 2*s.* 7½*d.* The Incorporated Society tried to establish an Agricultural School on the Farra estate, but were obliged to give it up, as they found the number of pupils attending it was not sufficient to defray the expense; the schoolhouse, however, is at present used for an ordinary school.

6. *Mitchell's Bequest.*—The annual rent is £298 1*s.* 10*d.*; of this sum £35 per annum is derived from houses in Church-street, let on leases of thirty-one years, at their full value. The rest of the rent is derived from lands in the county of Tipperary, containing 2,878A. 0R. 29P. (statute), let in perpetuity, and of these lands the society has no map. This estate is subject to £2 18*s.* 10*d.* quit rent.

7. *Kevin-street—House and Premises.*—The annual rent is £175, derived from two houses in Kevin-street, in the city of Dublin, let for a term of years, but for these premises the society pays a rent of £263 1*s.* 4*d.*

8. *Aungier-street and York-row.*—The rent is £65 per annum, from the houses in York-row, in the city of Dublin, let to yearly tenants; but for these premises, together with others in Aungier-street, now used as a day school, the society pays a rent of £184 12*s.* 4*d.*

9. *Baggot-street.*—The rent of this property is £105 5*s.* per annum, issuing out of a building used as an hospital, let on lease. These premises are subject to a head rent of £59 8*s.* 6*d.*

10. *Boland's Bequest.*—This property produces a rent of £63 2*s.* per annum, issuing out of houses and premises in Arklow, let on lease.

11. *Clonmel.*—The rent of this property is £122 10*s.*, and is derived from a house, and ground containing 39A. 3R. 1P. (statute) attached to it, which is let for a term of years, but is subject to a rent of £11 1*s.* 8*d.* These premises are in the town of Clonmel, and were formerly used as the charter school.

12. *Nicholson's Estate.*—The annual rent of this property is £159 19*s.* 4*d.*, subject to head rents of £18 11*s.* 1*d.* The agent states that it consists of lands in the county of Sligo, containing 143A. 0R. 13P. (statute), together with rent-charges out of some other lands in Sligo and Galway, and that this property was transferred to the society about three years ago, and is intrusted to its management for twenty-one years; there are six tenants on it, four of whom have long leases. On one of these holdings there is a large arrear of rent due; but a satisfactory explanation has been given of this, as has been already stated. The society has no map of this property, nor of any of the six preceding properties.

13. *Santry School Farm.*—This farm is let at £105 15*s.* 4*d.*, to two tenants, one of them the master of the Santry Institution, which is erected on this ground. It contains 54A. 3R. 35P. (statute), and is subject to a head rent of £34 7*s.*

14. *Stradbally.*—The rent received out of this is £45 3*s.* 7*d.* a year, and the rent payable is £46 15*s.* 4*d.* It is situated in Queen's County, and consists of a house, which was formerly a charter school, and of some land attached, containing 48A. 2R. 15P. (statute); it is now held by four yearly tenants.

15 & 16 *Farra* (*Carroll*), *and Farra* (*Jessop*).—The rent received from these two estates is £47 1*s.* 6*d.* a year. It is a head rent issuing out of 575A. 1R. 13P. statute, of land in Westmeath, which is let in perpetuity, and it is paid over by the society to the head landlord, so that the society has no benefit out of it. It probably undertakes the duty of receiving and paying it over, because it holds lands adjoining, held under the same lease.

17. *Brackley.*—This yields an annual rent of £37 10*s.*, subject to a head rent of £6 10*s.* 10*d.* It is land in the county of Armagh, containing 48A. 2R. 15P. (statute), held by one tenant, under an agreement for a lease. There is no map of this.

18. *Ballycastle.*—The rent of this is £40 a year. It is a house and 33A. 1R. 27P. (statute), in the county of Antrim, held by one tenant, on a terminable lease.

19. *Charlemont-place.*—The rent of this is £35, received for a house in the city of Dublin, let for a term of years. It was formerly one of the society's schoolhouses, and is subject to a rent of £63 per annum.

20. *Clontarf.*—This is a house which had been a schoolhouse, and 10A. 2R. 0P. (statute), let to one tenant for £111 13*s.* 4*d.* a year, on a lease for thirty-one years. The

society pays a rent of £37 7*s.* 8*d.* for these premises. There is no map of them except on the lease.

21. *Celbridge.*—This is a perpetual rent-charge of £239 1*s.* 6*d.*, payable out of the estate of Mr. Connolly, in the county of Kildare.

22. *Celbridge School Farm.*—The rent of this property is £79 1*s.* 2*d.*, which is paid by two yearly tenants, for 80A. 3R. 38P. (statute), of land adjoining the society's school, at Celbridge. There is no map of it.

23. *Cleagh.*—This is a rent of £23 2*s.*, issuing out of 124A. 2R. 36P. (statute), of land in the county of Limerick, let for ever.

24. *Curraghlass.*—This is a rent of £75 13*s.* 10*d.*, issuing out of 711A. 0R. 17P. (statute) of land in the county of Tipperary, also let for ever. There is a quit rent payable out of this property, amounting to £5 12*s.* 8*d.*

25. *Dunmanway.*—This is a house, and 32A. 1R. 23P. (statute) of land, in the county Cork, held by a tenant on a lease for years, at a rent of £26 7*s.* 8*d.*, subject to a head rent of £2 2*s.* It had been used as a schoolhouse formerly.

26. *Garrigoteen.*—This is a rent of £235 10*s.* 2*d.*, issuing out of 413A. 1R. 0P. (statute) land in the county of Limerick, let for ever.

27. *Innishannon.*—The rent of this was £33 14*s.* 6*d.*, issuing out of an old schoolhouse and 64A. 3R. 6P. (statute) of land, in the county of Cork. The agent states that proceedings have lately been taken against the society to evict them out of this property. It is subject to a rent of £9 4*s.* 7*d.*

28. *Killoteran.*—This is an old schoolhouse and 42A. 2R. 14P. (statute) of land, in the county of Waterford, let to one tenant, on a short lease, at £52 a year.

29. *Mountstewart.*—Is a rent of £4 12*s.* 3½*d.* out of 68A. 0R. 28P. (statute) in the county of Dublin, let for ever.

30. *Newport.*—This is an old schoolhouse and 32A. 1R. 23P. (statute) of land in the county of Tipperary, let for £34 16*s.* a-year, to one tenant on a lease for a term of years.

31. *Ormsby's Bequest.*—This is a perpetual rent-charge of £32 6*s.* 2*d.*, issuing out of land in the county of Sligo.

32. *Price's Annuity.*—Is also a perpetual rent-charge of £27 13*s.* 10*d.*, issuing out of land in the county of Tipperary.

33. *Ray.*—Is about 28A. 1R. 25P. (statute) of land in the county of Donegal, held by one yearly tenant, at £35 per annum, and for which the society pays a rent of £5 14*s.* 11*d.*

34. *Shannon Grove.*—An old schoolhouse and garden, in county of Limerick, let for £5 a-year for a term of years.

35. *Trim.*—The rent received out of this is £33 15*s.* for 14A. 2R. 12P. (statute) of land, adjoining the society's school at Trim, in the county of Meath. This school was formerly a boarding school, but is now a day school.

36. *Town Parks, Dundalk.*—In this case a rent of £59 is paid by the master of the society's school at Dundalk for 21A. 0R. 6P. (statute) of land, which the society takes from the Earl of Roden for the master's accommodation. The society pays to Lord Roden about the same rent which it receives, and it pays a further sum of head rent at Dundalk, amounting in all to £88 4*s.* 2*d.*

The society has no maps for the last eighteen properties, unless there be maps on leases in some cases. The contents of the entire of these properties have been furnished by the agent, as before stated.

In concluding my report on the estates of the Incorporated Society, I must observe, that I did not consider it necessary to visit the numerous small properties of this society.

It will be seen by the foregoing statement that many of their properties are let for ever. Some of them are merely rents charged on estates, and many again are houses with a few acres of ground attached, and scattered over distant parts of the country.

After examining the rentals and accounts of all these estates, I visited the Ranelagh Estates, in the county of Roscommon; the Pococke Estates, in the county of Waterford; and the Dean Stewart's Estates, in the county of Louth.

Wilson's Hospital Estate.

IV. Wilson's Hospital Estate.

This estate is situated in the counties of Westmeath, Longford, Kildare, and Dublin. It contains 5,881A. 0R. 16P., statute measure, according to the survey made by Vaughan, in 1822.

The rent, as stated in the rental, to November, 1854, is £3,487 15*s.* 4*d.*; but as the townland of Piercefield has been re-let at an increase of £86 3*s.*, to take effect from that date, and the townland of Daars has been since re-let at an increase of £66 0*s.* 6*d.*, the annual rent must now be taken at £3,639 18*s.* 8*d.*

The only general valuation of the property which appears to have been made for the governors is one made by Mr. Vaughan, in 1821. It amounted to £3,503 13*s.* 5*d.*, late currency, equal to £3,234 3*s.* 1½*d.*, present currency; but as the valuation did not include the lands of Garrow and Tonyn, nor the tithes and glebe lands of Balrothery, the rent of them, £392 11*s.*, must be deducted from the present rental before comparing it with Vaughan's valuation. In this way the present rental, as lately increased, is £13 4*s.* 6½*d.* higher than Vaughan's valuation.

According to the new general valuation of Ireland the annual value of this property is £3,880 12*s.* From this amount is excluded the value of Tonyn and Farron, which are let for ever; also of the hospital buildings, the railway, and the tithe rent-charge of Balrothery. The rent for which the same lands are now let is £3,416 10*s.* 2*d.* There are a few acres of land attached to the hospital which do not pay rent; but after allowing for this, the whole estate appears to be let for less than the Ordnance valuation by a sum of at least £400 a-year, and the only denominations which are let at a rent equal to the Ordnance valuation are Piercefield and Daars, which have been lately re-let at an increased rent.

The arrears remaining due to November, 1854, according to the rental and accounts furnished, November, 1855, amounted to only £162 15*s.* 1½*d.* This is a very small amount of arrears; but it must be observed, that if the account of arrears had been brought down to the 1st May, 1855, as would be the case if the accounts were kept in the same manner as those of the estates under the Commissioners of Education, then the amount above stated would be increased by half a-year's rent. It must also be observed, that there had, during the ten years preceding, been £828 14*s.* of arrears written off. The greater part of this amount was struck off in the years 1848 and 1849, and was arrear due by persons who either emigrated or were ejected in those years. During the same period a sum of £956 11*s.* 3*d.* appears to have been paid to an emigration agent to assist the tenants in emigrating. There does not appear to have been any abatement made to the tenants during the year of the potato failure, as was common in Ireland; but from the year 1842 to the present time, the trustees have given £200 each year to carry out agricultural improvements on the estate. This fund has been expended by Mr. Hamilton in paying the salary of an agriculturist, whose duty it has been to instruct the tenants in the proper cultivation of their farms; it has also been used to defray the expense of draining and other improvements, and to supply seeds. It is probable that the judicious application of this fund was as beneficial to the tenants as a temporary abatement of rent would have been, and it has undoubtedly been more advantageous to the property. The loss of income to the trustees, from the failure of crops in the years 1845 to 1851, was small as compared with most other estates, considering the class of tenants on a large part of the property; and the greater part of the money which was expended has added to the value of the estate. On looking back to the accounts prior to the year 1836, I find that the rents had not been got in so regularly as they have been since, and in that year old arrears, to the extent of £3,229 1*s.* 11*d.* were written off, which had been accumulating for many years.

During the last twenty years the system has been adopted of noting in the rental any arrears which there was no probability of being recovered, and obtaining the consent of the trustees to write them off. This is evidently a much better plan than to allow such arrears to accumulate; it is more satisfactory to the tenants, and it tends to secure the punctual payment of rent.

Improvements.—The agent, Mr. Hamilton, appears to have given much attention to the improvement of the estate during the last fifteen years. He has been authorized by the trustees during that time, as we have just seen, to expend £200 per annum on improvements, and a further sum in assisting those tenants to emigrate who were unable to hold their farms. In addition to this, about £430 was paid to the Government for arterial drainage, which affected the estate. These different sums of money appear to have been very usefully expended. Mr. Hamilton has also circulated among the tenants printed rules, prohibiting subletting, dividing of farms, and other injurious practices. These, together with the instruction and superintendence of an agriculturist, have increased the comfort of the tenantry and improved the estate.

Present State of the Property.—The estate of Wilson's Hospital, as has been remarked, is situated in the counties of Westmeath, Longford, Kildare, and Dublin. The hospital itself, as well as the greater part of the estate, is in Westmeath. There are thirteen denominations in this county, viz.—Heathfield, Piercefield, Monkstown, Rathaspick, Downs, Rathcorbally, Sheefin, Cummerstown, Coyne, Crossane, Ballybeg, Garvoge, and Garrow. Heathfield, on which the hospital is erected, is on the road between Mullingar and Longford, at the distance of seven miles from the former place. The Dublin and Longford Railway passes through it, and the Multifarnham station is near the hospital. A portion of Heathfield is used as garden and grounds for the hospital; another portion, adjoining the house, is occupied by the master, the Rev. H. T. Ringwood, for which he pays a rent of £40 a-year; and the remainder is held by one tenant, as pasture and meadow. The whole is now let for £146, which is much below the value set on it by Vaughan, and also below the Ordnance valuation, which is £210, exclusive of the value of the hospital and railway. A sum of £209 2*s.* 8*d.* was paid for draining land near the hospital.

Piercefield is situated near the preceding denomination, at about six miles from Mullingar, and is the best portion of the Westmeath Estate. It has been recently valued by Messrs. Brassington and Gale, and they correctly describe it as being chiefly land of good quality, and, with trifling exceptions, well managed, and in the hands of respectable and solvent tenants; they also state, that about ten acres of bottom land is very much injured

APPENDIX TO REPORT.

Reports of the Inspector of Estates.

J. W. Murland, Esq.

Wilson's Hospital Estate.

by the high level of Lough Iron, and that on the completion of the drainage works now in progress, this low land may be reclaimed. Piercefield is now let, according to new valuation, at £86 3*s.* per annum more than it had been; and as the rent of some of the farms is raised about 25 per cent., while the rent of others is not raised at all, the revised valuation must have been much required. This naturally suggests that, perhaps, some other parts of the estate might be re-valued with advantage.

The four townlands of Monkstown, Downs, Rathcorbally and Sheefin, adjoin each other, and are about five miles to the north-east of Mullingar; they are light inferior land; these lands, as well as the other portions of the estate which are now let in small holdings, appear, by an old rental, to have been formerly let in large lots to middlemen; and it is stated that they were by them sublet to a great number of tenants who, when the leases to the middlemen expired, became direct tenants to the trustees: in this way many of the holdings became much smaller than it was desirable they should be. The tenants reside in thatched cottages, for the most part fairly comfortable. The state of agriculture on these small farms is better than is generally met with in this country on such lands. Some of the tenants on these townlands, and on Cummerstown, observed that, a few years ago, they had been in the habit of letting the ground, after taking two grain crops off it, lie out to recover itself without sowing any grass seeds in it, but that Mr. Hamilton had sent a person to instruct them in a better method of cultivating their ground, that they had found great benefit from adopting a proper rotative system of crops, and laying down their farms with suitable seeds, instead of pursuing the very injurious practice above referred to. On two or three of the larger holdings there are good slated houses, and the lands are more improved.

Cummerstown lies north-east of Mullingar, at the distance of about ten miles; it is also a light inferior soil, and has forty-one tenants on it; with the exception of six or seven, they have very small holdings; the same remarks apply to the small holdings on this denomination, as to those on the last-mentioned townlands. Of the larger holdings, one, the rent of which is £86 5*s.* per annum, is very badly cultivated, the fences falling down, and the place generally much neglected; the others, however, have comfortable houses, and are in a satisfactory state.

Coyne and Crossane are about eight miles west of Mullingar, and Ballybeg nine miles still further to the west, being near to the town of Moate. I have not visited these townlands, but I find by the accounts that a considerable portion of the money allowed by the trustees for improvements was expended in draining, building, and other works upon them. It appears also by the rental, that in the year 1846, there were forty holdings on them, most of which were too small to support a family; the number of holdings on these lands is now reduced to sixteen.

Garvoge is situated near Lough Iron; it contains only 14A. 0R. 16P., statute. This and all the foregoing denominations are let from year to year. There is a small piece of ground, called Garrow, containing 15A. 2R. 21P., which is let on a lease of lives renewable for ever, at the rent of £8 a-year, late currency.

In the county of Longford there are two denominations situated five miles south of the town of Longford; one of these, Tonyn or Toneen, is let on a lease of lives renewable for ever, at a rent of £36 per annum. This lease, as well as the lease of Garrow, were made before the trustees got the property. The other denomination, Aughinaspick, is let to two tenants, at a rent of £117 a-year.

The portion of the estate in the county of Kildare consists of the townland of Daars. It is two miles beyond the Straffan station, on the Great Southern and Western Railway, and the line passes through a small part of it. Daars contains 491A. 2R. 35P., and is all, except a very few acres, let to one tenant, who uses as much of it as he holds in his own hands, as a pasture farm, for which it is well adapted. The trustees expended £235 8*s.* 5*d.* two years ago in draining this land; about seventy plantation acres of this denomination has been sub-let to four or five under-tenants: a new lease for twenty-one years of Daars was lately granted, to commence from 1st May last, at a rent of £520 per annum, being £66 0*s.* 4*d.* higher than the former rent. It still seems moderately let, as in the general valuation it is valued at £525 15*s.*, excluding the railway.

The property in the county of Dublin belonging to Wilson's Hospital, consists of the tithe rent-charge and the glebe lands of Balrothery.

The rent-charge now amounts to £179 19*s.* 5*d.* per annum. The glebe lands consist of several detached pieces of land situated in and about the village of Balrothery. The whole contains, according to Vaughan's map, 152A. 3R. 1P., statute measure, and the present rent of it is £169 2*s.* 6*d.* The Ordnance valuation is £172 15*s.* It seems to be moderately let; there are no arrears due by the tenants, who are seventeen in number. On some of the holdings there are no houses, being occupied by persons residing in the neighbourhood. On one holding, which is sublet at a small profit rent, there is a good slated farm house. The other houses are thatched cottages, and some of them are in good order, but a few are much out of repair. No part of the money allowed by the trustees for the improvement of the estates belonging to the hospital has been expended on this part of their property.

There is one plot of ground in the village, containing three roods and three perches, plantation measure, which is marked on Vaughan's map, made in 1822, as belonging to Wilson's Hospital, and being at that time held by Hans Hamilton, Esq. This plot is at present occupied by a person called Maguire, who is stated to pay rent to Mr. James Hans Hamilton's agent; but no rent is now received by the hospital out of this plot of ground. I have no doubt that when Mr. Hamilton's attention is called to this matter, he will do whatever is right in it.

V. Morgan's Schools Estate.

The estate of Morgan's Schools consists of lands situated in the counties of Dublin, Limerick, and Leitrim, together with some houses in the city of Dublin and town of Drogheda.

The estate in the county of Limerick consists of the townlands of Park Lewis, Ballywilliam North and South, Graigue, and Rathnaseer. The trustees have no map of this estate, but according to a rough sketch on the Ordnance Survey, furnished by the agent, it contains 1,060A. 3R. 4P. (statute).

The estate in the county of Leitrim consists of the townland of Corglass, containing 423A. 0R. 22P. (statute).

The estate in the county of Dublin contains 785A. 3R. 2P. (statute).

The rental of the whole property for the year ending 1st November, 1854, amounted to £1,514 19*s.*, but of this £111 1*s.* 7½*d.* was the rent of leasehold premises in Malpas-street and Bonny's-lane, the lease of which expired in March, 1855, so the present rental must be taken at £1,403 17*s.* 4½*d.*, and this is subject to a deduction for head-rent and quit-rent, payable out of the several properties, as stated by Mr. Hamilton, of £372 14*s.* 7½*d.*, and a further reduction for a perpetual rent-charge, payable out of the Newcastle property, of £276 18*s.* 4*d.* This brings the rental down to £754 4*s.* 5*d.*, after which there are still to be made the usual deductions for tithe rent-charge, poor rates, and receiver's fees.

According to the new general valuation of Ireland, the value of the Newcastle property is £645, and it is let for £614 9*s.* 6½*d.*, being £30 10*s.* 5½*d.* less than the Ordnance valuation.

The valuation of Ballyboggan is £82 10*s.*; it is at present let for £81.

I cannot ascertain the Ordnance valuation of that portion of the Limerick estate called Lower Ballywilliam as I have not been furnished with a map of it.

The other parts of the estate of Morgan's Schools are either let in perpetuity or on very long leases, so it is useless to compare the rent with the Government valuation.

The arrear returned in the rental up to the 1st November, 1854, was £234 1*s.* 4*d.*, and arrears to the amount of £718 15*s.* 9*d.* appear to have been struck off during the preceding ten years; of this sum £211 appears to have accrued on the townland of Lower Ballywilliam, and to have been written off when reductions were made in the rent.

The part of the property situated at Newcastle, in the county of Dublin, is about a mile from Hazelhatch Station, on the Great Southern and Western Railway. It consists of several detached pieces of land mixed with other properties in a very unusual and inconvenient manner. This evil was rectified, in some degree, by an exchange made a few years ago between the trustees and Lord Cloncurry, by which a portion of Morgan's School Estate adjoining his Lordship's demesne of Lyons, was given to him in exchange for some pieces of ground which formerly belonged to him, but which lay in the middle of the school estate. The position of this property will be better understood by a reference to the maps* which accompany this report. The Newcastle property is at present let to thirteen tenants; one of these tenants occupies the old dwelling house which was formerly occupied by Mr. Morgan, the founder of the charity. This and another tenant occupy large farms; their rents together amounting to £420 9*s.*; these farms are used chiefly for pasture. There are three other tenants whose holdings are of a moderate size. A rent of £6 15*s.* 5*d.* is paid by the representatives of the late Right Hon. D. Latouche, for the upper part of an old house in the village of Newcastle, in which the Petty Sessions court is held, and which Mr. Latouche took a lease of for ninety-nine years; the other seven holdings are extremely small, the aggregate rent of them being only £22 18*s.* 2*d.* In one or two places the boundaries are defaced, and I think should be restored in some way.

Ballyboggan is situate on the Royal Canal, two miles from Dublin; it contains 31A. 2R. 2P., statute measure, and is let to two tenants at a rent of £81 per annum.

The estate of Clondalkin is let to two tenants on leases renewable for ever. This property also consists of several detached pieces, as may be seen by reference to the map.

The estate in the county of Limerick is situated near Rathkeale, and the greater part of it is let for ever; the only part of it which is not so let is the townland of Lower Ballywilliam, which is held by one tenant at a rent of £100 per annum. Until the year 1847 the rent of it was £233 9*s.* 6*d.* a-year; it was then reduced to £150 a-year, and in 1851 it was further reduced to £100. This part of the estate should, I think, be surveyed and valued.

The land in the county of Leitrim is called Corglass, and is held by the representative of the late Sir Josias Rowley, on a lease for ever, at a rent of £31 4*s.* 3*d.* per annum; no map of it has been furnished.

The house in Dublin is in Kildare-street, and let at £60 a-year; and the premises in Drogheda consist of two tenements, one let on lease for ninety-nine years, at £15 a-year, and the other on a lease for 150 years, at £13 a-year.

My attention has been called to the accounts of Mr. Hamilton with the trustees of Wilson's Hospital and Morgan's Charity, and some observations made by Mr. Hickson, the Government Accountant attached to the Commission, upon them, have been forwarded to me, and I have been directed to consider them in making my report. With reference to Wilson's Hospital, Mr. Hickson observes, that the account between Mr. Hamilton and the trustees "ought to show all he received and paid up to the last date in it, and the true balance on that date in his hands; but instead of that, Mr. Hamilton deducts all that he had received on account of the rents that fell due on the 1st May preceding the date of

* The maps are not published, but are deposited amongst the documents of the Commission.

closing the account in November, although his practice is to collect a large part of this May rent before the time of accounting."

"He also deducts the sums he has paid between the 31st of July and the 1st November, from the other side of the account: the effect of thus deducting, in one case, about half a year's receipts, and in the other about a quarter's payments, is, of course, to leave a balance in Mr. Hamilton's hands unaccounted for at the time of the meeting of the Governors, and thus reduce the real balance to a smaller apparent balance."

Mr. Hickson also remarks that Mr. Hamilton keeps his own accounts, so as to show to the day what he owed to the charity, and what he had received and paid on account of it.

With reference to Morgan's Charity Mr. Hickson observes that, from the year 1823 to the year 1848, sums have been charged for interest on the balance appearing due by the trustees on the 1st November in each year, which sums amount in all to £849 8*s.* 3*d.*; and he further observes that, from the accounts for the past few years, it would appear that in years in which the charges for interest were made the agent must have had in his hands funds not brought to account.

I have looked carefully into the rentals and accounts furnished by Mr. Hamilton to the trustees, and I find that they have been kept with great clearness and accuracy, and the increase or diminution in the amount of rents, from year to year, is explained at the end of each rental in a very satisfactory way. The accounts between Mr. Hamilton and the trustees have been furnished about the 20th November in each year. This account also seems to be kept very accurately; but, as Mr. Hickson observes, it includes on one side the receipts for rents due up to the 1st November in the preceding year, omitting any sums which may have been received on account of the May rents; and on the other side of the accounts it includes payments made to 31st July. This is not a correct way of making out an account, for both sides should be brought down to the same date. The accounts seem to have been made out in this way for upwards of thirty years, and, perhaps, much longer. It does not seem to me that the accounts were kept in that way for the purpose of making the balance in the trustees' hands appear small, but because the 31st July was the usual period to which the accounts with the master of the hospital were settled. Assuming that as a convenient period for balancing the annual accounts, no doubt all the receipts up to the same period should be credited on the other side. If this had been done the balance shown in favour of the trustees would probably have been about the same as that now shown. The balance now shown is, of course, much less than the balance in favour of the trustees is at the end of November, just after the greater part of the May rents have been collected; but, on the other hand, it is greater than the balance is at some parts of the year—in other words, though the balance shown is not the maximum balance in the hands of the agent, neither is it the minimum.

There appears to have been generally a considerable balance in Mr. Hamilton's hands; this should not be in the case of a mere agent whose duty it would be to lodge the money in the bank to the credit of the trustees from time to time as he received it; but Mr. Hamilton has acted as treasurer and banker as well as agent to the trustees in these cases; and as he had to make payments from time to time on account of the charity, it was necessary he should have funds in his hands to meet these demands, unless the trustees should attend to draw cheques on the bank, when required. It does, however, appear that the balance in Mr. Hamilton's hands was generally from one to two thousand pounds more than was required for the purpose of meeting the demands upon him—on some occasions it even exceeded two thousand pounds; and it would, I think, be very useful, if, in addition to the annual account which is at present laid before the trustees, the cash account, which is regularly kept by Mr. Hamilton, and which shows all the receipts and expenditure for the trust, were balanced up to the end of each month, and also laid before the trustees, this would show the amount of the balance in the treasurer's hands above what was required to meet current expenditure, and so enable them to judge of the propriety of having it invested or of directing an increase of expenditure.

With respect to Morgan's Charity the case is somewhat different: that account is balanced up to the 1st November in each year, and all the payments made till that date are charged on one side, and no sum received on account of the preceding May rent is credited on the other side—in fact, very little, if any, of the May rent has been then received, but the greater part of it is received in the month of November.

The effect of balancing the accounts at that particular time is, that the balance in Mr. Hamilton's hands is nearly at its minimum; two or three weeks later the balance would be increased by the amount of half a-year's rent then received. This mode of keeping the accounts was attended with some loss to the trust funds prior to 1849; for, before that time, the balance struck at the 1st November in each year, was to the debit of the trustees, and interest on that amount for the year is charged in the accounts of the next year; whereas, if the accounts had been balanced to the 20th November instead of the 1st, the balance would have been on the other side of the account. This is undoubtedly the case since the year 1845, as appears by Mr. Hamilton's books, which since that time have been kept with greater care than they had been previously. With reference to the antecedent period, when the greater part of the interest was charged, it is stated that owing to the rents not having been collected regularly, the balance against the charity on the 1st November was not greater, nor so much as at other parts of the year. This may have been so, if the May rents, instead of being received during November, were not got in for three or four months afterwards. The amount charged for interest in the years 1846 to 1849, is not considerable; if, however, an interest account had been kept as merchants would keep it, allowing interest to the trustees when the balance was in

their favour, and charging interest when the balance was against them, it is probable that for some of these years, instead of having to pay interest, the trustees would have received interest; and if the account had been kept as a banker would keep it, that is, not allowing any interest when the balance was in favour of the trustees, but charging interest only on whatever balance there was from time to time to their debit, the amount chargeable against the trustees for those years would have been reduced. It appears to me that the accounts in this case should have been kept in the latter manner, that is, treating Mr. Hamilton as the banker for the charity.

In this case, as in that of Wilson's Hospital, the cash accounts, balanced monthly, should be placed before the trustees at the time of auditing the accounts.

VI. Bishop Foy's School Estate, Waterford.

Bishop Foy's School Estate, Waterford.

This property consists of five townlands in the county of Waterford, about twelve miles to the south-west of the city of Waterford, and contains 1,339A. 2R. 32P., plantation measure, equal to 2,170A. 0R. 15P., statute measure, as returned in the rental furnished to the Commissioners. This measurement is less than that set down in the old map of 1721, by 57A. 0R. 7P., plantation measure. The trustees of this charity also hold 16A. 1R. 10P., called Grantstown, situate about a mile and a-half to the east of Waterford; this was taken on lease in the year 1812, for 812 years, at the yearly rent of £88 7*s.* 4*d.*, and on it the school-house, &c., are erected.

The present rental of the property, including receiver's fees, is £1,650 17*s.* 9*d.*; the Ordnance valuation of it, excluding Grantstown and the two houses in Waterford, is £1,367 11*s.*, and the rent now received for the same lands, £1,568 7*s.* 2*d.*, including receiver's fees.

There does not appear to have been any regular valuation of this property made on behalf of the trustees, at least no copy of any such valuation has been furnished by them. There is, indeed, a rough valuation on a single sheet of paper, which purports to have been made in 1808 by one Valentine Gill; but the value therein placed on the land is evidently extravagant. As some of this property is let at rates fixed thirty years ago, and some at reduced rates at which it was let in the years 1851 and 1852, when land was depressed in value, the rate of letting is not uniform: the parts recently let seem to have been let at fair rents, having regard to the value of land at the time, and the condition in which the farms then were, but the rents are under the present value; on the other hand some of the farms, let thirty years ago—and on which no change has since been made—appear to be let at a high rate, and it is on these farms that arrears are now due.

The whole amount of arrears returned on the rental up to November, 1855, are £1,053 4*s.* 5*d.*, which is less than one year's rent. The majority of the tenants owed no arrears, and there are only four tenants who owe more than one year's rent. With respect to these the agent observes, that the arrears are of long standing, some of them having accrued upwards of twenty years ago; and he thinks it would be advantageous to have these cleared off, which might be done by striking off part of the amount, and requiring them to execute improvements for the remainder. This appears to be a wise suggestion, as the arrears have existed so long, and the tenants are not able to pay them; it would be very desirable to have them cleared off in some such manner as that proposed. The arrears struck off during the last ten years amounted to £1,377 1*s.* 3*d.*; most of this was also of old standing, and was written off when tenants who owed it were ejected for non-payment of rent. Some abatements were made to the tenants during the years 1848 to 1852, inclusive.

There are no leases on the property at present. The lands of Ballyquin, Mothel, and Kilenasbeg, were let on lease for thirty-one years, which expired 1854, and these lands are since held from year to year. The lands of Ballyvad and Hacketstown were held under an old lease made in 1786, which was evicted 1852, for non-payment of rent. The lessees in this lease had sublet the land at an extravagant rent, and the evil effects which usually attend such subletting occurred in this case. When the old lease was evicted, the land was found to be occupied by a numerous and poor tenantry, and sadly neglected and abused. These lands also are now let from year to year; the trustees have power, under the Act 1st Geo. II., to grant leases for any term not exceeding thirty-one years, or three lives, at the best improved rent that can be got.

With the exception of two small sums, amounting together to only £19, which were allowed for repairing houses, no money appears to have been expended by the trustees of this estate in improvements; the estate, however, has been much improved during the last few years by the tenants themselves.

The townland of Ballyquin adjoins the demesne of the Marquis of Waterford, and a few acres of it have been let to the Marquis, which he has fenced and greatly improved; the rest of the townland is held by six tenants, one of whom holds ninety-nine acres, and is making valuable improvements on his farm; the other tenants seem to be industrious, and to be making some improvements.

Mothel and Kilenasbeg are about half a-mile to the south of Ballyquin, and the tenants on these lands also seem to be, with one or two exceptions, improving their holdings. It was found necessary, a few years ago, to remove some of the tenants from these lands, and the new tenants, who got the land at a reduced rent, are improving their farms and houses. There are some cottier houses on these lands, but not more than what are required to accommodate labourers to work the land; however, some of the cottier houses are in very

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Bishop Foy's School Estate, Waterford.

bad order; and the tenants on whose lands they are, and who charge a rent for them, should be required to keep them in proper order.

The townlands of Ballyvad and Hacketstown, which were held, as has been already stated, by middlemen, under an old lease, granted in 1786, are very light land, generally much inferior to the other townlands; parts of them are covered with furze, and other parts marshy. When the interest of the middleman was evicted, there were twenty-seven tenants in occupation of the lands. It is now held by twelve, whose holdings are of a fair size, and now that the tenants have the land at a moderate rent, and hold it directly from the trustees, they seem to take an interest in making improvements. Some of them have already done a great deal in clearing away the furze, removing old useless fences, and draining. They seem to feel, that though they have no leases, they will be allowed to have the fair advantage of their improvements, and it is very desirable that nothing should be done to shake the confidence they now have in the management of the property. Some of the tenants on the estate have comfortable slated houses, but the majority dwell in thatched cottages, which want improvement. They should be encouraged to get better houses; and, perhaps, the best way of doing this would be to allow the cost of the slates and timber to any tenant who would build such a house as the agent approved of. The tenants themselves are sensible of the loss and inconvenience of having all their houses thatched, and are anxious, as far as they can, to get them slated.

There are no good maps of this estate; in addition to the old map of 1721, there is a very imperfect map of two townlands made in 1808, and a map of Hacketstown and Ballyvad, made in 1853. The quantity of land stated in the old map does not correspond with the present rental, but exceeds it by 57A. 0R. 7P., as already stated. It would be useful to have good maps made of the whole estate, and also a valuation which could be relied on. I have only to observe, in conclusion, that Mr. Roberts, the agent, who is intrusted with the management of this property, appears to keep the accounts with regularity and accuracy, and to manage the property judiciously.

Estate of the Hospital and Free School of King Charles II., or Blue Coat Hospital, Dublin.

VII. Estate of the Hospital and Free School of King Charles II., Dublin, commonly called the Blue Coat Hospital.

The real estate of the King's Hospital consists of houses and premises in the city of Dublin, the lands of Noddstown, in the county of Tipperary, and the rectorial tithe rent-charge of the parish of Mullingar.

According to the rental for the year ending the 29th September, 1854, the gross annual rent of the property in the city of Dublin, amounted to £905 16*s.* 6¼*d.*; the gross annual rent of Noddstown, to £498 10*s.* 9*d.*; and the net receipts, on account of the tithes of Mullingar, to £278 14*s.* 7*d.*; making the total annual rent of the real estate, £1,683 1*s.* 10¼*d.* In addition to the properties just mentioned, the hospital is entitled to receive one-fourth of the rents of the Cappaghloughlin Estates, in the Queen's County, the present gross rent of which is £727 15*s.* 3*d.* This estate is under the management of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, and has been already mentioned in this Report. The hospital derives a further income from money in the funds, from some casual revenues, and from contributions out of the funds of Erasmus Smith's Schools.

In the charter of King Charles the Second, the Crown granted to the mayor, sheriffs, commons, and citizens of Dublin, and their successors for ever, "all that piece or parcel of ground on Oxmantown-green, near the city of Dublin, on which the intended Hospital and Free School is already begun to be built."

The charter does not state the quantity of the land so granted, and the Governors of the hospital do not, as far as I can ascertain, possess any map of it. The ground on which the hospital stands, and the garden attached to it, and also the ground on the south side of Blackhall-street, appear to be the ground granted by the charter, and at present in the possession of the hospital; but in the absence of any map, it is impossible to say whether the hospital is now in possession of the whole of the ground so granted for its use.

The other property in the city belonging to the hospital was surveyed, and maps made of it by Mr. J. J. Byrne, in 1832. Previously the Governors had only an old map showing the outline of the different lots, and setting out the measurements. Mr. Byrne's maps are at present on loose sheets; for their better preservation they should be bound together.

In the maps which accompany this Report, the property delineated on Mr. Byrne's maps is coloured red; the ground in occupation of the hospital, but of which it has no map, is surrounded by a red line.

Of the Noddstown property, also, the Governors had no proper map till 1830, when Mr. Byrne made a map which only shows the outlines of the property.

Until comparatively lately, the Governors appear to have been at a loss for a statement of the titles to their different properties, which are in some cases very complicated. They also much required a schedule of their deeds and leases. This want has been supplied by an elaborate Report prepared by Mr. O'Brien, in the year 1846, in which the nature of the title of the Governors to the several properties belonging to the hospital is very clearly and fully explained.

The Dublin Estate includes that part of Oxmantown-green on which the Blue Coat Hospital and part of Blackhall-street now stand; it also includes the rents of the whole of the houses and premises surrounding Stephen's-green, and the rents of that part of Oxmantown-green on which part of Blackhall-street, Blackhall-parade, a considerable part of North Brunswick-

street, North King-street, and Queen-street, have been built. These rents were conveyed to the hospital for ever, by deed of gift from the Corporation of Dublin, dated the 4th February, 1669. The property had shortly before that time been divided into lots, and the several lots let by the Corporation, in fee-farm leases, reserving small rents. It appears by Mr. O'Brien's Reports that there are two lots in Stephen's-green, and one in Oxmantown-green, out of which the hospital does not at present receive any rent. The loss, however, is trifling, as the rents only amount to about £4 per annum. In addition to these rents so granted by the Corporation, other house property in the city of Dublin has been conveyed to the hospital from time to time, which, though small in extent compared with what was granted by the Corporation, yet yields a larger income, as the hospital receives the improved rent of it, whereas it only receives small ground-rents of the property granted by the Corporation.

The rents of the Dublin Estate are collected by the Registrar of the hospital; the holdings are very numerous, and the rents payable out of the majority of them very small. Out of many holdings the rent payable is less than twenty shillings; this renders the collection troublesome. It appears by the rental that the arrears due on the Dublin property, up to the 29th September, 1854, amounted to £785 5*s.* 2½*d.*; on twenty different holdings arrears for ten years and upwards, were due; in a few cases upwards of twenty years' arrears were due. The reason assigned by the Registrar for so large an amount being due, where the rents being trifling in proportion to the present value of the property, should be punctually paid, was, that it had been found impossible for some time to enforce the payment of arrears, by reason of the Governors of the hospital not having possession of the counterparts of the old leases which had been made by the Corporation of the city of Dublin, before the property was granted to the hospital. The Governors have now obtained these documents, and are getting in some of the arrears; but as the tenants cannot be compelled to pay more than six years' arrears, the amount due exceeding six years will in most cases be lost to the hospital. I have not learned why it was that steps were not sooner taken to obtain possession of the necessary documents from the Corporation, and so to have guarded against this loss. In consequence of this want of proper diligence there appears to be some risk, not only of losing a few years' rent, but of losing the right to enforce payment of rent out of several lots of the property.

Noddstown.—This townland is in the county of Tipperary, between Gold's-cross and Cashel, about three miles from the former place, and four miles from the latter. It contains, according to the map made in 1850, by Chadwick, which seems to be a copy of the Ordnance Survey, 614A. 1R. 12P., plantation measure, equal to 995A. 0R. 16P., statute measure, and the rent, according to the present rental, is £498 10*s.* 9*d.* From the time these lands were granted to the hospital, in 1675, until the year 1850, they were let from time to time in one lot to tenants, on leases for twenty-one years; the rent reserved in the lease made in 1820, was £999 12*s.* 8*d.* per annum, but about two years afterwards this rent was reduced to £692 6*s.* 2*d.* present currency; and at that rate it continued until the lessee was ejected for non-payment of rent, in 1850. The lessee was a middleman, who had sublet the ground at a profit-rent, so that the rents which the tenants in occupation were then liable to, were probably about double their present rent. When the middleman was ejected, the Governors had the lands valued by a person residing in the neighbourhood, and let them to the tenants in possession as yearly tenants, at the value then placed on them. At that time the value of land was very much depressed, and according to the valuer's report, many of the farms were much exhausted. The value of Noddstown, according to the recent Government valuation, is £685 18*s.*, so that the present rents of the property seem to be considerably below its fair value. With reference to the Government valuation of this and the other estates referred to in these reports I would beg to observe, that I have endeavoured to obtain the valuation as accurately as possible; and for this purpose tracings from the maps were sent to the General Valuation Office in cases where there was any doubt about the boundaries. And I wish further to state, that every assistance has been most kindly afforded me by Mr. J. B. Greene, superintendent of the valuation department.

The arrears due to 1st March, 1855, were £105 1*s.* 1*d.*; but this account is only carried on from the year 1850. Previous to that time the Governors forgave half a-year's rent to the lessee, amounting to £346 3*s.* 1*d.*, and when he was ejected in the following year, for non-payment of rent, a further sum of £592 12*s.* 1*d.* was lost.

The Governors do not appear to have expended any money in improvements. About 100 plantation acres of this estate are described by Mr. Chadwick (the person who recently valued it) as being in want of draining, and very susceptible of improvement. This part of the land is let at present at rents varying at from 7*s.* to 10*s.* per Irish acre, and there can be no doubt its value would be increased if some money were judiciously expended in draining it. This might be done by the Governors themselves, or the tenants might be allowed to do it, and paid a portion of the expense; but in either case the rent should be raised as soon as the work was completed, so as to pay interest on the money expended.

Present State of the Property.—When it was valued, in 1850, there were forty-two tenants in occupation of the land. The number of holdings is now reduced to twenty-five. It is stated by the local agent that the farms are much improved since the tenants commenced holding directly under the Governors. The rents previously had been so high that the tenants were unable to make improvements; besides, from the uncertainty of their tenure under middlemen, they had not any inducement to do so. The land (except

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that portion which requires draining) is now pretty well cultivated. Mr. Chadwick described a considerable part of it as being "good land, on a limestone bottom." The lime is burned on the estate, and used as manure. A few of the tenants have slated houses, but the majority reside in thatched cottages, which are fairly comfortable. On the whole, the tenants seem to be at present in a prosperous condition, and to have a valuable interest in their farms.

There is some land, called the Retrenched Land of Noddstown, adjoining the estate already described, and which, it is supposed, must have at one time formed part of it. It appears that the law agent of the Governors, a few years ago, took some steps to establish the right of the hospital to this land, but the proceedings were dropped. Mr. O'Brien, in his report, states that the comparatively recent severance of the principal part of the Retrenched Lands from the hospital estates, by means of a boundary ditch, and some other reasons he mentions, would warrant the supposition that these retrenched lands originally formed part of the hospital estates. If this be so, and the land be lost to the charity, as, I fear, it is likely to be, the loss must be attributed to the neglect of the Governors, in former times, to get proper maps of their property.

General Report of Inspector of Estates.

GENERAL REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF ESTATES.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, requesting me to transmit for the information of Her Majesty's Commission, notes of the general impressions with respect to the management of estates of Endowed Schools produced on my mind during my inspection, particularly with regard to general causes of defects which I may have observed, and as to the arrangement it would be desirable to make for the future efficient management of such estates. In compliance with this request, I beg to submit the following observations. I shall first briefly state my general impression of the management of the estates under the three principal Boards, viz., the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, the Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, Esq., and the Incorporated Society.

First.—As to the estates under the management of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, it will be seen in the foregoing Report, that when the estates were placed under the care of the Commissioners, about forty years ago, they were in a most neglected and unsatisfactory condition. The Royal School estates had been let by the schoolmasters on short leases to middlemen, who, having only a temporary interest in them, made no attempt to improve them, and when their leases expired, the lands were in an exhausted state, occupied by a numerous and poor tenantry.

The Commissioners of Education, soon after their appointment, had the several estates surveyed and valued, and as soon as the lease of each estate expired, they appointed a local agent to take charge of it. So far the course pursued appears to me to have been judicious; and if it had been followed up by some provision for inspecting the estates occasionally, to see that the local agents did their duty, the arrangement would have been complete.

Under the management of the Commissioners, some of the estates have much improved, while others have rather deteriorated; on the latter the tenants are poor, the farms very small and badly cultivated, their dwellings uncomfortable, and large arrears have been allowed to accumulate. This difference in the estates seems to have arisen from the different characters of the local agents, to whose care they were respectively entrusted. Those estates which were under the care of experienced and energetic agents were improved; and the Commissioners appear to have readily adopted the suggestions which were made by these agents, from time to time, for the benefit of the tenants and the improvement of the properties. On the other hand, where the Commissioners were unfortunate in the selection of local agents, the estates have remained in the same very unsatisfactory condition in which they were when they came into their hands. In fact, the management has been left with the agents, and no effectual means have been taken to supervise and control them. I have had occasion to observe, that in a few cases the lands are at present let below their fair letting value, and much below the valuation which was made of them in 1816, when the Commissioners, soon after their appointment, had most of the estates valued. It would, I think, be desirable to have lands let for agricultural purposes valued at intervals of say twenty years, and to have the rents fairly adjusted after each valuation, to meet the changes which must necessarily take place in such long periods in the prices of agricultural produce, as well as in the local advantages affecting each property; but of course on such readjustment of rents care should be taken not to charge the tenants for permanent improvements made at their own cost, nor, on the other hand, to let a bad tenant have any advantage from his own negligence.

I have remarked that, as regards the Royal School estates, the Commissioners do not seem to have any powers of leasing; and as regards the other estates under their management, their powers are insufficient. Some of the agents have kept their accounts very accurately, and furnished them punctually; but others have not kept them as accurately as they should have done, and have not furnished them till several months after the proper time.

Arrears have been allowed from time to time to accumulate on several of the estates. On those belonging to the Schools of Enniskillen and Cavan the arrears at present amount to a very large sum in proportion to the rent, and a great part of it will be lost; but in

addition to the loss, this further evil attends the accumulation of arrears, that every tenant who is liable to be called on for arrears which he has not the means of paying, knows that he may at any time be turned out, and therefore suffers his houses and farm to go to ruin.

I have also observed, that on the Enniskillen and Cavan estates, the tenants have got receipts on account only, and not up to any particular period; so the tenants frequently do not know the exact amount which they owe, and it is almost impossible to check the agent's accounts. On most of the estates the Commissioners have, at different times, made liberal allowances to the tenants for improving their houses, draining their farms, and other similar things. These allowances appear to have varied according to the views of agents who recommended them. When they have been made, they have produced beneficial results; and it is to be regretted that such improvements have not been carried out on a uniform system, and on all the estates under the care of the Commissioners.

It seems to have been the wish of the Commissioners to prevent the subletting and dividing of farms, and most of the agents have carried out their wishes in this respect; but on the Enniskillen and Cavan estates, the rule has not been properly enforced, and to the neglect of it must be attributed, in a great degree, the present unsatisfactory condition of these properties.

It will be seen by reference to the preceding report on the Raphoe School estate, that it has been in a singularly lawless condition, and has heretofore yielded but a very trifling income to the Commissioners. The late agent had done a good deal to improve it, and it is desirable that the course adopted by him should be energetically followed.

I have thought it right to remark that in some places there are no schools for the children of the tenantry within a convenient distance, and that it would be advantageous to the tenants if the Commissioners would take steps to have schools established in those places.

I am aware that it is no part of my duty to report on schools; but I consider that an estate cannot be well managed when the tenants' children have not some means of education within their reach. This remark applies not only to some parts of the estates under the management of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, but also to some parts of the other estates belonging to endowed schools.

Secondly.—With respect to the estates belonging to the Governors of the Schools founded by Erasmus Smith, Esq., I have to observe, that they are placed under the care of two local agents, one having the management of the Southern, and the other of the Western Estate; and that the present agents appear to discharge their duties in a satisfactory manner. The estates, however, were for the most part let to middlemen until about twenty years ago, without any restraint on subletting. This system, probably, at that time saved trouble to the Governors and their agents; but it produced very injurious results on the portions of the estates which were so let, incumbering them with a great number of poor tenants who were unable to cultivate them properly. For the last twenty years the Governors have been endeavouring successfully to remedy the evils produced by the subletting and subdivision of farms; but in doing so, there has necessarily been a heavy loss sustained, and the evil effects of the former system are still apparent on some parts of the property. I have no doubt that if the Governors had been aware in times past of the extent to which portions of the property were deteriorated by subletting, they would not have allowed the practice to prevail so long; but it does not appear to be the practice of the Governors to inspect the estates, so that they have no regular means of knowing the condition of the tenantry, or the way in which the agents discharge their duty beyond the mere receipt of the rent.

The Southern Estates are for the most part excellent land, and very favourably situated, adjoining stations on the Waterford and Limerick Railway. The Western Estates are also very advantageously situated, the greater part adjoining the town of Galway, and the other parts near Mullingar and Sligo. The lands are generally let at fair rents, somewhat lower, I believe, than what similar lands are let at by neighbouring proprietors. This, however, seems to me to be judicious, for I think the policy of the Governors should be, not to let the land at the highest rent which might be obtained, but to let it at such a fair rent as the tenants can pay punctually and consistently with their prosperity and comfort. The practice of the Governors has been to let the land on twenty years' leases, and prior to each letting to have it valued, not charging the tenants for houses built at their own cost. This practice seems generally to work well; but I have had occasion to remark that the leases do not provide against sub-letting and the exhausting the farms by excessive tillage before the expiration of the terms for which they are held. I had also to notice the existence in several places of cottier houses of a very wretched description.

The Governors have powers of granting certain building leases in towns, and leases for twenty-one years in the country; but for the reasons I have pointed out in my Report, these leasing powers are not as ample as they should be.

A large sum of money was expended on the Southern Estates during the years 1845 to 1850, in drainage work and some other improvements. On the Western Estates there has been no expenditure by the Governors worth noticing.

Thirdly.—The estates of the Incorporated Society are all under the management of one agent, who resides during part of the year at Dublin, and during the remainder of the year at Athlone, where the largest of the Society's estates is situate.

A considerable portion of their property is let in perpetuity, and consequently does not require any further care than to have the rents regularly received and the accounts correctly kept. There are, however, portions of the estates which require a good deal of attention, and these appear to have been carefully and judiciously managed by the present agent.

APPENDIX TO REPORT.

Reports of the Inspector of Estates.

J. W. Murland, Esq.

General Report of Inspector of Estates.

As a general rule, I think it is very desirable to have the agent living within a short distance of the property under his management; but the number of very small properties belonging to this Society is so great, that it would be impossible to get good local agents to take charge of each of them, and to have a number of separate agents would increase the expense of management and the trouble of keeping accounts, without any corresponding advantage.

I have had occasion to notice, particularly with reference to the estates of the Incorporated Society, the want of maps of many of the properties. This want should be supplied as soon as possible.

I have now given a brief statement of my impressions as to the management of the estates under the three principal societies, and of the defects which I noticed; but I beg to refer to my report for fuller information about each estate, as well as about the other estates belonging to endowed schools in Ireland; and in conclusion I take leave to submit a few observations as to the arrangement which I consider necessary to the efficient management of these estates.

Generally, it is desirable that the agent should reside so near the property under his care that he can visit it frequently, and that the tenants can, without inconvenience, go to him when they have occasion to consult him. As the prosperity of any estate will very much depend on the skill, energy, and character of the agent, it is of great importance that no person should be appointed to that office who has not had experience in the management of property. It is, therefore, I think, desirable, as far as possible, to appoint gentlemen who have other agencies in the same neighbourhood, and whose characters, as efficient agents, are established. In addition to this, some means should be adopted to have the estates inspected at least once in each year; this would be satisfactory to an agent who was zealously discharging his duty, and at the same time it would prevent an agent of a different character from neglecting it.

This inspection might be done by the secretary to the trustees, when qualified for it, or by some of the trustees themselves. The extension of railways through the country now affords great facility for such inspection.

The different agents should be required to adopt a uniform system of rentals and accounts, and the accounts should in every case be furnished within six months after the gale day to which they are made out—that is to say: if the account is made out to the 1st November, showing the arrears, if any, due by each tenant up to that date, such account should be furnished at furthest some time before the 1st of May following; and the rental should state the date when each tenant paid his rent, so that by comparing this statement with the receipt given to the tenant, the account could at any time be checked. The agent should be required to lodge the rents in bank, from time to time, whenever the balance in his hands amounted to a certain limited sum.

For the guidance of the agents, as well as the tenants, general rules should be promulgated against subletting and dividing of farms; and when agricultural leases are granted, covenants should be inserted prohibiting these practices, and also the practice of exhausting farms by excessive tillage.

The punctual payment of rents should be insisted on: if a case occurred in which the agent considered that the tenant should have some consideration extended to him, in consequence of his having met with a fatality such as loss of cattle, &c., such case should be represented to the trustees; and if they concurred in the agent's view, it would be better at once to remit as much of the rent as the tenant was unable to pay, and not in any case to allow arrears to accumulate.

Ample leasing powers, with due restrictions to prevent their abuse, should be granted to the trustees of all the estates of endowed schools.

On those estates which require draining, or on which the tenants' houses are in very bad order, some general plan should be adopted of carrying out the necessary improvements, or at least of assisting the tenants in doing so. In most cases an addition might be made to the rent equal to the interest on the money so expended.

With respect to the large arrears at present existing on the Enniskillen and Cavan school estates, I have suggested in my report a plan for their liquidation; whether that plan be adopted or not, it is essential that in some way these arrears should, with as little delay as possible, be got rid of.

There are some other suggestions made in my report, with reference to particular estates, which it is, I think, unnecessary to repeat. But the arrangement for the efficient management of these estates, which appears to me of paramount importance, is the careful selection of experienced agents, acting under inspection, so that the estates may be managed as nearly as possible in the way in which a judicious landlord would manage his own property.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

JAMES W. MURLAND.

W. N. Hancock, Esq., LL.D.

Tables relating to Intermediate Schools.

—Towns with Grammar Schools in operation, Endowed to extent of £250 a year, with Population of Town.

Province, County, and Town.	Name of School,	Estimated Annual Value of Endowment, inclusive of School Premises.	Population of Town in 1851.*
		£ s. d.	
Leinster.			
Kilkenny; Kilkenny,	Kilkenny Grammar,	291 2 0½	15,257
Louth; Drogheda,	Erasmus Smith's Grammar,	254 6 8	16,810
Meath; Navan,	Navan Endowed,	309 1 9	3,979
Munster.			
Clare; Ennis,	Erasmus Smith's Grammar,	362 17 9	7,843
Cork; Midleton,	Midleton Endowed,	265 1 5	3,658
Tipperary; Clonmel,	Clonmel Endowed,	564 0 0	11,589
,, Tipperary,	Erasmus Smith's Grammar,	373 7 0	6,816
Ulster.			
Antrim; Belfast,	Royal Academical Institution,	589 0 3	97,784
Armagh; Armagh,	Royal Free,	1,520 17 9	8,578
Cavan; Cavan,	Royal Free,	729 19 6	3,034
Donegal; Raphoe,	Royal Free,	575 17 4	1,491
Fermanagh; Enniskillen,	Royal Free,	†2,286 6 2	5,792
Londonderry; Londonderry,	Diocesan Free,	899 10 0	19,727
Tyrone; Dungannon,	Royal Free,	1,545 10 1	3,835
Connaught.			
Galway; Galway,	Erasmus Smith's Grammar,	472 18 0	20,055
Exhibitions attached to Erasmus Smith's Grammar Schools,		360 0 0	
		£11,399 15 8½	

* Not including persons in Public Institutions. † Including Burke's Exhibition.

—Towns with Grammar Schools in operation, Endowed with less than £250 a year, with Population of Town.

Province, County, and Town.	Name of School	Estimated Annual Value of Endowment, inclusive of School Premises.	Population of Town in 1851.*
		£ s. d.	
Leinster.			
Carlow; Carlow,	Diocesan Free,	140 15 5	†8,690
Dublin; Dublin,	St. Patrick's Grammar,	27 13 10	246,679
Kildare; Naas,	Diocesan Free,	97 4 4	3,010
King's; Banagher,	Royal Free,	191 11 7	1,846
Louth; Dundalk,	Dundalk Endowed,	110 5 7	9,842
Westmeath; Mullingar,	Diocesan Free,	132 9 5	4,817
,, Mullingar,	Hevey's Classical,	40 0 0	—
Wexford; New Ross,	New Ross Endowed,	52 7 5	7,903
,, Wexford,	Diocesan Free,	109 10 10	11,958
Wicklow; Wicklow,	Diocesan Free,	92 6 2	2,946
Munster.			
Cork; Bandon,	Bandon Endowed,	27 13 10	6,909
,, Charleville,	Charleville Endowed,	41 6 10	2,662
,, Cork,	Diocesan Free,	73 16 11	82,625
,, Kinsale,	Kinsale Endowed,	68 15 10	5,501
,, Mallow,	Diocesan Free,	93 6 2	5,439
,, Rosscarbery,	Diocesan Free,	27 13 10	1,041
,, Youghal,	Youghal Collegiate and Commercial,	50 19 10	7,630
Limerick; Limerick,	Diocesan Free,	200 12 10	48,785
Waterford; Lismore,	Lismore Endowed,	50 10 0	2,319
,, Waterford,	Munster Provincial School of Society of Friends,	242 1 6	22,979
,, Waterford,	Corporation Free Grammar,	‡78 9 2	—
Ulster.			
Antrim; Ballymena,	Diocesan Free,	139 9 3	6,136
,, Belfast,	Belfast Academy,	85 11 9	97,784
,, Belfast,	Roman Catholic Diocesan Seminary,	§—	—
Armagh; Armagh,	Roman Catholic Diocesan Seminary,	‖—	8,578
Cavan; Cavan,	Kilmore R. C. Diocesan Seminary,	203 15 4	3,034
Donegal; Lifford,¶	Lifford Free,	55 13 1	572
Down; Downpatrick,	Diocesan Free,	115 15 6	3,845
Monaghan; Carrickmacross,	Carrickmacross Grammar,	135 18 10	2,529
,, Monaghan,	Diocesan Free,	168 4 9	3,328
Connaught.			
Galway; Eyrecourt,	Eyrecourt Endowed,	34 0 0	936
,, Tuam,	Diocesan Free,	136 15 4	4,929
Roscommon; Ballinasloe,	Irish Missionary College,	84 0 0	3,679
,, Elphin,	Diocesan Free,	73 16 11	1,229
Total,		£3,182 12 1	

* Not including persons in Public Institutions. † Including Graigue. ‡ Including Downe's Exhibition.
§ School premises subject to head rent, &c. ‖ Cost of buildings not returned. ¶ Vide Report, p. 122.

III.—Grammar Schools not in Towns.

Province, County, and Locality.	Name of School.	Estimated Annual Value of Endowment, inclusive of School Premises.
		£ s. d.
Leinster.		
Dublin, Whitechurch,	St. Columba's College,	105 0 0
Queen's, Ballyroan,	Ballyroan Endowed,	255 14 4
Munster.		
Waterford, Lismore,	Mountmelleray Abbey,	12 0 0
Total,		£372 14 4

IV.—Towns with superior English Schools in operation, with Population of Town.

Province, County, and Town.	Name of School.	Estimated Annual Value of Endowment, inclusive of School Premises.	Population of Town in 1851.*
		£ s. d.	
Leinster.			
Queen's; Mountmellick,	Leinster Provincial School of Society of Friends,	177 7 9	3,657
Ulster.			
Antrim; Lisburn,	Ulster Provincial School of Society of Friends,	320 9 9	6,533
Total,		£497 17 6	

V.—Towns having above 2,000 Inhabitants, according to Census of 1851, and in which there is situate no Grammar or superior English School, which is in operation, and included in Tables of Schools and Endowments.

County.	Town.	Population. in 1851.*	County.	Town.	Population. in 1851.*
	Leinster.		Tipperary,	Nenagh,	6,818
Carlow,	Bagnalstown,	2,292	,,	Roscrea,	3,389
,,	Tullow,	2,966	,,	Templemore,	4,371
Dublin,	Balbriggan,	2,309	,,	Thurles,	5,935
,,	Blackrock,	3,276	Waterford,	Cappoquin,	2,144
,,	Bray,	3,152	,,	Carrickbeg,	2,109
,,	Haroldscross,	2,934	,,	Dungarvan,	6,865
,,	Kingstown,	10,458	,,	Portlaw,	4,351
,,	Ranelagh,	3,209		**Ulster.**	
,,	Rathmines,	3,215	Antrim,	Antrim,	2,325
,,	Ringsend,	2,064	,,	Ballymoney,	2,578
,,	Skerries,	2,327	,,	Carrickfergus,	3,543
Kildare,	Athy,	3,873	,,	Larne,	3,076
Kilkenny,	Callan,	2,368	,,	Lisburn,	6,551
King's,	Parsonstown,	5,480	,,	Whitehouse,	2,236
,,	Tullamore,	4,630	Armagh,	Lurgan,	4,205
Longford,	Longford,	4,467	,,	Portadown,	3,091
Louth,	Ardee,	2,752	Cavan,	Belturbet,	2,054
Meath,	Kells,	3,660	,,	Cootehill,	2,105
Queen's,	Maryborough,	2,078	Donegal,	Ballyshannon,	3,698
,,	Mountrath,	2,079	Down,	Banbridge,	3,301
,,	Portarlington,	2,730	,,	Bangor,	2,849
,,	Mountmellick,	3,657	,,	Donaghadee,	2,821
Westmeath,	Athlone,	6,199	,,	Gilford,	2,814
Wexford,	Enniscorthy,	6,010	,,	Newtownards,	9,568
,,	Gorey,	2,972	,,	Newry,	13,433
Wicklow,	Arklow,	3,300	,,	Portaferry,	2,074
,,	Wicklow,	2,946	,,	Rathfriland,	2,053
	Munster.		Fermanagh,	—	—
Clare,	Kilrush,	4,471	Londonderry,	Coleraine,	5,926
Cork,	Bantry,	2,943	,,	Newtownlimavaddy,	3,209
,,	Clonakilty,	3,297	Monaghan,	Castleblayney,	2,077
,,	Dunmanway,	2,212	,,	Clones,	2,319
,,	Fermoy,	5,846	Tyrone,	Cookstown,	2,999
,,	Kanturk,	3,131	,,	Omagh,	3,054
,,	Macroom,	3,717	,,	Strabane,	4,326
,,	Mitchelstown,	3,084		**Connaught.**	
,,	Passage West,	2,852	Galway,	Gort,	2,398
,,	Queenstown,	11,405	,,	Loughrea,	3,621
,,	Skibbereen,	3,834	Leitrim,	—	—
Kerry,	Dingle,	3,273	Mayo,	Ballina,	5,229
,,	Killarney,	5,901	,,	Ballinrobe,	2,161
,,	Listowel,	2,134	,,	Castlebar,	4,016
,,	Tralee,	9,445	,,	Westport,	4,114
Limerick,	Newcastle,	2,403	Roscommon,	Boyle,	2,727
,,	Rathkeale,	2,988	,,	Roscommon,	3,089
Tipperary,	Caher,	3,694	Sligo,	Sligo,	10,888
,,	Carrick-on-Suir,	6,211			
,,	Cashel,	4,650			
,,	Fethard,	2,767			

* Not including persons in Public Institutions.

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